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## OPINION METER

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INSIDE



## Atonement

Dying in prison—dying, as many did, with overwhelming guilt or bitterness—is judgment enough.

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## Naked Freida

What is a wholesome actress like Freida Pinto doing naked in an action movie like "Immortals?"

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## CUC to seek even higher base rate hike

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Despite the recent decision to lower the LEAC rate, power users in the CNMI should brace themselves for a possible increase in their power bills starting next year following the approval of changes to the contract of an independent power producer on Tinian, which is projected to result in an added cost of \$32.7 million for ratepayers.

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## CNMI to feds: Compensate us

»Lawmakers point to 'mess' federalization has become

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

### RELATED NEWS

Lawsuit vs CW final rule is placed under advisement. **PAGE 3**

Thousands stand to be allowed by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to remain in the CNMI without the ability to be legally and gainfully employed for "at least four months," and this is among the Fitial administration and lawmakers' major concerns during a closed-door meeting of the Strategic

government would provide funding to the CNMI government to accommodate these unemployed aliens who may be eligible for parole until Dec. 31, 2012.

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Economic Development Council on Capital Hill yesterday morning.

The Fitial administration, particularly Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, asked USCIS district director David Gulick whether the federal

## Oleai Beach Bar, Grillin', Fork & Chopsticks closed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Popular restaurants such as Oleai Beach Bar & Grill in Oleai, Grillin' in Garapan, and Fork & Chopsticks on Middle Road are turning belly up one by one, in large part due to the tanking economy.

Considered one of the—if not the—most popular bars/restaurants by the beach on Saipan, Oleai Beach Bar & Grill closed its operations on Nov. 1 after several years in operation. It was a favorite spot among residents and tourists because of its relaxing beachside location, great sunset view, \$1 tacos, great food, and friendly atmosphere.

Tamara Hunter, its former manager, said yesterday that there were several factors behind the closure, "mainly the increase in costs to run the business and the monthly rent, power, salaries, etc."

Hunter said that prior to the spot being named Oleai Beach Bar & Grill in the early '90s, it also hosted the former Rudolph's Bar before it moved to different locations.

Oleai Beach Bar & Grill's owners are trying to look for new investors to take over the bar's operations. For serious inquiries, contact Hunter at 234-8320.

A regular patron said that  
See OLEAI on Page 4



CLARISSA V. DAVID

## EARLY HOLIDAY TREAT

Several congregates at the Aging Center fall in line and wait for their turn to be served with delectable dishes prepared by the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan staff as a holiday treat for the island's elderly population yesterday at the Hibiscus Hall. The annual luncheon, which featured hotel executives serving the over 50 *man'amko* and staff led by director Rose Mondala, was Fiesta Resort & Spa's way of giving back to the community. See story and more photos on Page 6



## Local

# 'Islands' veterans to benefit from VA Pacific Islands improvements'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Changes can now be seen at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs VA Pacific Islands Health Care System, which has "come a long way" in its ongoing efforts to build a healthcare system that would better serve veterans on the islands.

Dr. James E. Hastings, VA Pacific Islands Health Care System director, said these improvements include making available more specialty care throughout the system by means of better technology.

"The most recent thing we did was we opened up telemedicine links into Saipan from Honolulu and between Saipan and Guam. We have improved that capability and what that does is that allows us to project out our specialty care systems out into the environment," he said.

Hastings was on island along with other members of the VA Pacific Island Health Care System for the Saipan Veterans Town Hall Meet last Nov. 16.

Hastings, who described himself as a disabled American veteran, noted that the VA also has "significantly increased" its mental health support system in the Pacific.

Although the psychologist that provides services to CNMI veterans at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic, Dr. Kendall E. Gladding, left in April, Hastings said they are expecting a new one to join the team "soon."

Hastings added that they have two psychiatrists out of Guam who will be traveling back and forth to the CNMI: Dr. Ruby

Manalastas and Dr. Joan Gill.

According to Hastings, building a healthcare system is "a continuous process" as the science of healthcare is moving in a direction he described as "very, very fast."

"This job will never be finished because we keep making more discoveries in health and as we do that, we understand more about how we implement them and make them effective to take care of people. So the job will never be done. We will just keep working at it continuously," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

But Hastings pointed out that the remoteness of the Pacific Islands is "absolutely a challenge" in this healthcare building initiative.

"You can't build a healthcare system in isolation from Washington, D.C.," he said. "You can't do that. What we're doing is I consider a very, very challenging initiative that we're trying to do. It's something that we all have to do together and so I need your input as I am trying to build our team and build this healthcare system out here."

The challenge, Hastings said, is compounded by the fact that the Pacific Islands are on the other side of the International Date Line, causing "havoc" for the computer systems since these are not built to handle such problems.

"We've come a long way. We really have. Now, have we come as far as we want to go? No, we haven't. But we're building a healthcare system. That's what we're doing and we've come a long way here," he added.

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# Lawsuit vs CW final rule is placed under advisement



After yesterday's hearing in the district court, attorney Stephen Woodruff poses with his clients, the seven individuals who are suing federal officials over the Department of Homeland Security's allegedly unreasonable implementation of the CNMI-only Transitional Worker final rule.

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona yesterday heard and placed under advisement the lawsuit filed by a group of individuals that is seeking to stop the Department of Homeland Security from enforcing the CNMI-only Transitional Worker final rule.

After a hearing that lasted over two hours, Manglona said she will issue a ruling as soon as possible as she understands the importance of the issues presented.

Attorney Stephen Woodruff argued on behalf of plaintiffs Bonifacio V. Sagana, Manuel T. Vilaga, Gerardo G. De Guzman, Hector T. Sevilla, Carlito J. Marquez, Eduardo M. Elenzano, and Jong Ho Lee.

Theodore W. Atkinson, senior litigation counsel of the Department of Justice Office of Immigration Litigation-District Court Section, argued for the respondents telephonically as he was at the Commonwealth Health Center for emergency medical treatment.

## Hart assures no work-hour cuts for college employees

Northern Marianas College president Sharon Hart assured employees that no work-hour reduction will take place during the fiscal year, despite a projected shortfall in the college's personnel cost.

"I don't think it's appropriate to place them into austerity because we need to make the best decision for the organization. I don't want to do that to my employees...because that's not my way of managing," Hart said in a visit to her office.

She told *Saipan Tribune* that unless the Board of Regents gainsays her decision, she will keep the 80-hour biweekly schedule for all staff.

The college has 175 employees, mostly administrative personnel and staff.

The respondents in the case are DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services District Director David Gulick, U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda L. Solis, and U.S. Department of Labor District Director Terrence Trotter.

After the hearing, Woodruff told reporters that he and the plaintiffs appreciate the "great deal of time" that Manglona gave them to argue their case.

"I think Judge Manglona understands the importance of the issue," he added.

At the hearing, Woodruff pointed out that DHS waited 22 months after the interim final rule was enjoined by U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Judge Paul Friedman in November 2009 before promulgating the final CW rule.

Friedman issued the preliminary injunction to stop the CNMI transitional worker program's interim final rule from going into effect on Nov. 28, 2009.

Woodruff said that DHS gave the public only 81 days to know what the CW final rule was, then gave employers and workers only 51 days to prepare and

support petitions for thousands of alien workers.

Woodruff said it is very clear that 51 days to deal with 14,000 alien workers is "simply unrealistic and unreasonable."

He conceded that USCIS did an extensive educational program when the final CW rule came out but only "because they [USCIS] know that there's

a big problem."

Woodruff said that Friedman provided a roadmap for an orderly and reasonable implementation of the CW rule, but DHS did not do any of those things in the 21-month delay. Woodruff said that Congress' intent to have a systematic and orderly transition "was largely defeated by the unreasonable

51-day frame."

"People cannot make intelligent decisions in that kind of [time] frame," he said.

Woodruff wants the court to stop DHS for 180 days from treating any alien lawfully present in the CNMI as lacking "admitted and paroled" status, removable, or unlawfully present in the U.S. He also wants the court to stop DHS for 180 days from treating any alien as unauthorized for work.

Woodruff emphasized that they are not challenging the federalization law but only DHS' implementation of the CW final rule.

In his response, DOJ counsel

Atkinson said that the plaintiffs can't show they're irreparably harmed by the CW final rule. He noted that one of the plaintiffs, Lee, actually filed petitions for CW permits for his workers on Friday.

He said the plaintiffs have not identified a concrete or particularized injury they have suffered or will suffer that makes it necessary to grant the preliminary injunction.

As for the likelihood of success on the merits of their lawsuit, Atkinson said the plaintiffs' complaints of procedural and constitutional violations by DHS in promulgating the CW final rule have no merit.

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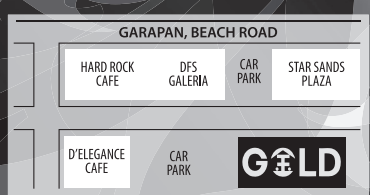


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## 3rd defendant in license scam gets 3-month sentence

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona yesterday imposed a three-month prison term on one of the five defendants in the driver's license scam case.

After serving the three-month sentence, defendant Hui Qiang Yan will be placed on three months of supervised release. The 48-year-old Yan was also required to pay a

\$100 court assessment fee and perform 50 hours of community work service.

Yan will remain out on bail until a federal detention facility is designated for him.

Manglona said she disagrees with the defendant's counsel Stephen Woodruff's position that Yan was less culpable than co-defendant Tahira Miah.

Manglona said that Yan was

involved in dealing with 20 individuals whereas Miah only participated in the transaction with two or three persons.

The judge said imposing a prison term on Yan is appropriate, not only for the seriousness of the crime but also for the harm or the potential harm he would do to the community.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth

Backe recommended a sentence of two years probation, while Woodruff recommended one year probation.

Yan and the four other co-defendants pleaded guilty to a count that charged them with conspiracy to unlawfully produce and transfer an identification document.

Last week, Manglona slapped a six-month prison

term on another defendant, William A. Hocog, a former supervisor at the Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Motor Vehicle, who pleaded guilty for his role in the driver's license scam.

Last Nov. 4, Manglona imposed a two-year probation sentence on Tahira Miah.

The other co-defendants are Mohammad Jahangir Miah, and Hongmei Sun.

According to the prosecution, from April 16 to June 18, 2010,

the five conspired to unlawfully produce and transfer CNMI driver's licenses.

Sun and Yan introduced foreign nationals as driver's license applicants to the Miah couple in order for the applicants to obtain a driver's license unlawfully with the help of Hocog, then a supervisor at BMV.

The applicants were each required to pay between \$230 and \$400 directly to Sun and Yan in order to receive the driver's license. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

### CUC

From Page 1

This follows the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s decision to seek an emergency base rate hike as a result of the increased employer contribution rate being enforced by the NMI Retirement Fund starting this fiscal year.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren told *Saipan Tribune* that the Fund's new 60 percent employer contribution rate is expected to bring about \$1 million in additional cost to the power division.

With the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's decision yesterday to approve amending the contract of Telesource CNMI Inc., Warren said the rate

increase proposal will go even higher as the projected additional cost of \$32.7 million for ratepayers will have to be factored in.

CUC initially wanted to file the base rate petition on Dec. 8 but this new complication means that CUC may have to file it in January.

Telesource's new contract is effective upon CPUC's approval of the emergency petition for electric base rate next year.

CPUC chair Viola Alepuyo approved the amendment to Telesource's contract after almost four hours of deliberation with the commission's consultant, Georgetown, CUC and its consultant, economists.com, and the commission's hearing examiner.

Her decision came despite findings of both Georgetown

and economists.com that the proposed change order for the Telesource contract is "unnecessary and not beneficial" to customers. Both experts believe that CUC can explore other ways of bringing renewable or sustainable energy to customers other than amending the IPP contract.

Alepuyo, who pointed out that her obligation as CPUC commissioner is to protect consumers and make sure that her decision is for the best interest of people, said that the renewable or sustainable energy component was the main factor in her decision.

Under Public Law 15-87, CUC is mandated to implement renewable energy on all three major islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota by 2014. Alepuyo said, however, that until now,

there has been "zero" progress in terms of renewable energy options from CUC.

The existing Telesource contract is in effect until March 2020. CUC pays the company \$2 million a year to provide power services to Tinian, which has about 4,000 residents. With the approved change order No. 5, the contract may be extended up to 15 years, with a \$3.5 million yearly fee or \$32 million during the 15-year period.

Alepuyo sees the potential to end this long-term contract with Telesource because a provision in the amended contract states that CUC can terminate the agreement in five years provided it identifies and establishes renewable or sustainable energy on Tinian.

"The way I see it, CUC wants

to get out from the relationship with Telesource and this change order No. 5 could possibly be the vehicle for this. With this approval, I hope CUC will start [exploring renewable energy] on Tinian so it can get rid of Telesource and then provide the same to the rest of the CNMI," said Alepuyo.

Alepuyo finds that the additional cost stipulated in change order No. 5 will be less than what CUC would pay Telesource in the full eight years of its contract. She said so long as fuel cost keeps going up, CUC customers will continue to pay higher electric rates. Renewable energy will alleviate the dependence of power production on fuel.

CUC, along with Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian),

backed amending the contract with Telesource.

Both Georgetown and economist.com had recommended the rejection of the proposal, citing the significant increase it will bring to ratepayers.

Based on the economic analysis of economist.com, the change order will mean an increase of \$4.43 per month—or \$53.20 for the first year—for an average residential ratepayer using 500 kWh monthly. Over the 15-year period, the additional amount by a user of 500 kWh is forecast to reach \$975.82.

For a residential ratepayer using 1,000 kWh monthly, this will result in an increase of \$8.87 per month or \$106.40 for the first year. In a 15-year period, the added cost is \$1,951.64.

### CNMI

From Page 1

This particular type of funding the administration is asking for is similar to the so-called Compact-Impact, wherein the U.S. government reimburses the CNMI and other U.S. areas for expenses related to hosting citizens from Freely Associated States.

Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan) said if only the federal government could provide "some kind of funding to accommodate the jobless aliens, it will make a big difference in this economy."

Gulick said, however, that he's not in a position to respond to this inquiry.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said Gulick could only offer responses that center on the processes of Commonwealth-only worker petitions and parole applications.

He said a major concern is that Gulick indicated that those who will be eligible for the one-year parole "are no longer allowed to continue working after Nov. 27."

"They may apply for employment authorization, but Gulick said the chance of getting an approval to start working may take at least four months. This is definitely a concern for the local

government as thousands now stand to be allowed to remain in the CNMI without the ability to be legally and gainfully employed for at least four months," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Vice speaker Felicidad Ogu-moro (Cov-Saipan), who asked the most questions at the meeting, wanted to find out USCIS' plan for these aliens who are unemployed and yet are allowed to remain in the CNMI.

Gulick said the grant of parole is on a case-by-case basis.

There were also questions as to how soon the Department of Homeland Security or its component agencies could deport illegal aliens so as not to further drain the CNMI's limited resources in the areas of health, public safety, and other services.

Lawmakers echoed the Fitial administration's concerns about USCIS' decision to grant parole until Dec. 31, 2012, on a case-by-case basis, to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and certain stateless individuals.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), chair of the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism, said if many of the eligible aliens granted one-year parole are unemployed, they will only be a burden to the CNMI.

He said he recognizes the important contributions of foreign workers to the CNMI, but

he's concerned about those who can't find jobs just like U.S. workers because of the bad state of the economy.

"If there's another year granted, people will kind of hang around and just like what the governor said, become a 'burden.' It's also not fair to nonresidents who are legally employed. I guess it's about fairness and in a way you add another year of 'unfairness,'" he said.

Villagomez said when he first heard about a one-year parole, he considered it as added time for the Department of Homeland Security to "fix" the regulations.

"In my opinion, they took over immigration and they haven't done a good job and look at how much of a mess this has become. They're disorganized," said Villagomez, one of the lawmakers at the SEDC meeting.

Palacios said his main concern are U.S. citizens with foreign spouses who can't afford the costly processing of green card for their spouses.

"Many of them, at least the people I know, are poor so they can't afford to pay \$2,000 to \$3,000 to process their husband or wife's green card. Yet you have jobless aliens you want to stay here for another year," he said.

Palacios said his final take on the immigration is: "The U.S.

Congress rushed to pass PL 110-229. They're unprepared to entertain both sides, especially the CNMI side. Now they're extending parole because they are not prepared to handle aliens. If they're prepared, they wouldn't have to offer one-year parole," he said.

Both Palacios and Villagomez separately said they have not decided whether to support Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's plan to go the route of stopping USCIS from granting a one-year parole by filing a lawsuit.

Demapan said this matter is still under legal advisement.

### 'Amnesty' by other name

Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), a former CNMI immigration director, said he considers USCIS' one-year parole program an "administrative amnesty."

"I can understand why the governor is upset. This is contrary to what they have been saying all along when they came out here to explain federalization, that USCIS or DHS will enforce the law," he said.

Fitial, in speaking out against Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's H.R. 1466, said the measure masquerades as a bill that will keep families together but in reality is a large-scale amnesty for aliens.

He said the bill provides a

direct route to U.S. citizenship that would create an estimated 11,000 new U.S. citizens in the Commonwealth within the next 10 years—virtually all of whom are adults and would be voters—at a time when the current U.S. citizen population of Chamorro and Carolinian ancestry is estimated to decline.

Fitial, in an interview, said he wants USCIS to rid the CNMI of illegal aliens, many of them he said could be given one-year parole by USCIS.

Sablan also said the application of the "Morton memo" in the CNMI has "softened" the federal government's stand against illegal aliens.

"They [federal government] set the time frame for the take-over, set the time frame for the expiration of the umbrella permits. In a way, as a former law enforcement officer, I would expect that they would enforce the intent of the law," he added.

Richard Pierce, executive director of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and also present at the SEDC meeting, said USCIS' latest figure as of Nov. 22 or 23 was that there were only roughly 2,700 foreign workers petitioned for CW status by their employers. USCIS is expected to release the latest figure this week.

This is only a small fraction of the 13,399 foreign workers who

are "potentially eligible" for CW status under the final worker rule published in September.

"Where are the rest of the foreign workers estimated to be here?" Pierce asked.

He said the number of people available to work far exceeds the number of available jobs.

He said it is within USCIS' domain to address concerns about people still in the CNMI but who are not supposed to be here anymore.

"We're not comfortable commenting how that should be handled. Based upon the numbers we received [yesterday], there's just too few jobs available for available people," he said.

USCIS has yet to issue instructions how to apply for the one-year parole.

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI, said there are many individuals not covered by USCIS' offer of one-year parole and not covered by HR 1466, especially long-term legal aliens without U.S. citizen children.

He said despite the end of the Occupy USCIS vigil, they will continue to press DHS to grant parole for all legal aliens as of Nov. 27, 2011, until such time that Congress acts to grant improved immigration status or grant "green card, pathway to citizenship" to long-term guest workers in the CNMI.

are closing up, other small businesses are also opening up.

Wayne Pangelinan, who just opened a barbecue stand on Monday, said he sees opportunity even during tough times. He opened "Charcoal" in Chalan Piao.

"Opening a business in a down economy boils down to marketing it... Plus I don't think there's a barbecue stand in this part of the island," he said.

### OLEAI

From Page 1

Oleai Beach Bar & Grill is the "only" authentic bar and restaurant by the beach that's not part of a hotel establishment.

"I would miss sitting out there, enjoying the beach, enjoying the food and drinks while watching the sunset. Nothing comes close," he said.

Grillin', once a popular party place and restaurant, also shut down its operations at Saipan Ocean View Hotel in Garapan early this month.

Doll Loste, co-owner of the restaurant, said the bad economy and the high cost of operations, including utilities, processing of employees' work papers, maintenance and other goods and services led to the restaurant's closure.

Loste said that looking back,

Grillin' at least found a niche as it became a popular spot for birthday parties and other receptions, mostly among the members of the Filipino community. The same spot used to host another restaurant, Pierre's.

"We found a niche, but even then, it's not good enough to cover all the expenses," said Loste.

Fork & Chopsticks, located beside New XO Market on Middle Road, gained popularity

for its cheap and sizeable food servings but just like the others, it also closed shop because operational costs couldn't catch up with revenues.

"Expenses were too much," said one of its former employees. But she said a new businessman may take over the restaurant and open soon.

Even international food chains such as Wendy's and Jollibee were not spared from the CNMI's

economic crisis in recent years.

The CNMI economy has shrunk to its lowest level, caused mainly by the pullout of the garment industry, a struggling tourism industry, and uncertainties brought by changes in the immigration system. Even the government's budget for fiscal year 2012 of \$102 million is down to the level it was more than 20 years ago.

But while many businesses



# Central govt pays PSS' \$50,000 utility obligation

## »Admin promises to pay \$1.6M balance for schools in 12 months

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The central government and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. appear to have reached an agreement over the Public Schools System's unpaid utility billings after the Fitial administration paid \$50,000 in PSS arrears and promised to pay for the balance in a year.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the \$50,000 is a down payment on the \$1.7 million obligation that the central government has agreed to absorb out of the \$3 million total that PSS owes CUC.

The central government agreed to shoulder the

\$1.7 million as acknowledgment that it failed to remit PSS' budget allotments last fiscal year.

Warren said that CUC received the amount on Nov. 15, along with a pledge that the remaining balance of \$1.6 million will be paid within the next 12 months.

PSS, meantime, will shoulder the remaining balance of \$1.3 million, Warren said, and he expects the obligation to be paid off within the same time frame.

"The \$3 million obligation of PSS to CUC was as of Sept. 30. We just met and arranged with PSS and the central government the payment plan. The central government will pay \$1.6 million and PSS

will pay \$1.3 million," he said.

CUC earlier rejected this arrangement as proposed by CUC and the Fitial administration, citing the lack of a concrete payment schedule.

CUC officials said yesterday that a new agreement is now being drafted to reflect this setup. CUC legal counsel Deborah Fisher even asked the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission to provide CUC some direction on the issue. She said it is the intent of CUC to continue negotiations with the central government relating to PSS' obligation.

CPUC chair Viola Alepuyo earlier slammed CUC officials for their unfair treatment of custom-

ers by allowing paying patrons—poor residential customers and commercial businesses—to subsidize the shortfall of delinquent customers such as PSS and the central government and by letting them be reconnected without paying a single penny—a violation of CUC policy.

As of Sept. 30 this year, Warren said that the central government and PSS top the list of accounts with unpaid obligations. He said the central government has an outstanding debt of \$2.4 million while PSS owes \$3.6 million as of end of fiscal year 2011. With the recent payment of \$50,000, PSS' obligation now goes down to \$3.1 million.

The \$6 million collectible from PSS and the central government translates to a month's supply of fuel for CUC.

CUC buys fuel every other day and pays \$1.5 million weekly for it.

# Fitial also asks independents, Covenants if they are seeking re-election

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has asked not only Republican lawmakers but also his former

Covenant Party members and independents whether they want to seek re-election under the Republican Party in the 2012 midterm elections.

Lawmakers interviewed yes-

terday said they have yet to decide and respond to the governor's letter, just like Republican lawmakers.

Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan) said he has not discussed

his re-election with his family and precinct club members. He has also not decided whether to run under the Covenant Party or the Republican Party.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) confirmed receiving an email from the governor, but has not decided on the matter too.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) said he

has yet to respond to the governor's letter. But he said he will seek re-election.

House minority leader Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) and other Republicans said they're not in a hurry to decide whether to seek re-election or whether to still run under the GOP should they decide to seek re-election.

The governor, in his letter, asked lawmakers to let him

know by Dec. 30 whether they are seeking re-election.

Fitial left the Republican Party to form the Covenant Party for his 2001 and 2005 gubernatorial bids. Although Fitial returned to the Republican Party in January this year, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, House members who ran under the Covenant Party, and other individuals remain with the Covenant Party.

# IT&E requests re-hearing on GTA application

## »CPUC seeks counsel advice; decision on telecom issues deferred to next week



MONETH G. DEPOSA

In this Nov. 19 file photo, IT&E counsels Victor Torres and Steven Carrara appeal to the Public Utilities Commission to suspend making any decision on the issue regarding GTA.

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

IT&E has asked the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission to order a re-hearing on the application process of its potential competitor, Guam-based GTA Services LLC, but the decision was deferred yesterday by commissioner Viola Alepuyo pending the commission's action on a separate IT&E appeal versus GTA's application.

Early this month, the commission initiated an inquiry to determine whether IT&E's rural exemption should be terminated and it authorized hearing examiner Harry Boertzel to oversee the inquiry and issue findings and recommendations.

Among these inquiries is whether GTA failed to make a bona fide request for interconnection services, as requested by IT&E.

Alepuyo was supposed to come out with a decision but she opted to delay this until next week, pending the report of CPUC legal counsel Anthony Long who was asked to provide a legal opinion.

IT&E's request for a re-

hearing, she said, is entirely separate from the bona fide request issue for interconnection services. However, Alepuyo believes that the two issues are interrelated and a decision on either matter will impact the another. She said IT&E raised some legal issues in its request for re-hearing. She promised to come out with a written order within seven days.

During a Nov. 19 meeting, IT&E legal counsels Victor Torres and Steven Carrara pleaded with the commission to put off making a decision as it will render moot all their other appeals and concerns regarding GTA's application.

Yesterday, Carrara told *Saipan Tribune* that his client would like to present some arguments as it seeks a re-hearing process for GTA's application. He refused to disclose these arguments pending the commission's decision on its appeals.

IT&E earlier filed a case against the commission in court for approving GTA's application. Carrara described this case as a "hold-over" pending the commission's decision on the appeals they presented. "That case still stands but it's just

stayed until we resolve everything here [at the commission level]," said Carrara.

According to IT&E, GTA's request was not bona fide because when made on Aug. 29, 2011, GTA did not yet possess the authority to provide intrastate service in the CNMI. It was only late last month when the commission approved a certificate of public convenience and necessity to GTA, authorizing the company to provide competitive local exchange services within the Commonwealth. IT&E asserted that GTA needed this certification before its request could be considered bona fide.

IT&E, in its appeal, said that until GTA possesses the certification, it is not authorized and cannot provide telephone exchange or exchange access service in the CNMI.

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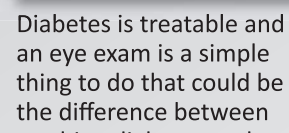
**234 - 3976**

## NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL DIABETES MONTH

Presidential Proclamation, November 2011:

"During National Diabetes Month, we remember those we have lost to diabetes, and we stand with the millions of Americans who have been touched by its consequences. As a Nation, it is our task to reduce the incidence of this illness and offer care and support to those it affects."

— President Barack Obama



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# Fiesta Resort kicks off Christmas for the *man'amko*



Saipan Seniors Advisory Council sergeant-at-arms Manuel Mesa, right, smiles for the camera before getting sushi rolls.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan started the Christmas ball rolling for the island's elderly population by treating the *man'amko* to a holiday luncheon at the Hibiscus Hall yesterday.

The luncheon was made more special with the hotel's own executives serving the over 50 congregates and Aging Center staff led by director Rose Mondala.

"I've never seen such a beautiful welcome, seeing the Fiesta staff lined up to greet us from the moment we stepped out of the car and as we walked to the venue," Mondala said in her remarks before lunch was served.

Mondala said the Aging Cen-

Two congregates get their servings of fresh fruits for dessert.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



CLARISSA V. DAVID

From left, dance contest first place winners Leonides Marinas and Felisa Basa, holding \$100 cash each, and second place winners Maxim Mereb and Christiana Michael, each holding their \$50 cash prize.

ter "tracks" those who remember the *man'amko* through the years and Fiesta Resort & Spa is always one of them.

"We want to thank you for thinking of us again," said Mondala. "You take care of us on our important days and that's why we will give back to you as well."

As their way of giving back, Mondala announced that they will hold their celebration of *Mes' Man'amko* or Older American Month in May at the Fiesta Resort & Spa.

"Happy holidays and we promise you that we will be back," added Mondala.

Food and beverage manager Das Krishnan disclosed that the annual luncheon was initially set for Thanksgiving but because of the *man'amko*'s schedule, they had to change it to a special season's greeting lunch.

Krishnan said they had a Chamorro healthy menu—

"something soft and easy and healthy"—in mind when they thought of dishes to be included in the sumptuous feast for the *man'amko*.

Yesterday's banquet featured garden salad with various dressings, sushi, beef and broccoli, pancit, white rice, fried rolls, fish fillet, and fried chicken. Velvet cake and slices of oranges served as desserts.

"We wish them best health and happy season's greetings," said Krishnan.

Human resource manager Guadalupe Flores said the holiday feast for the *man'amko* is one of their ways to give back to the community. "We really need to take care of our elderly folks and this is something we enjoy doing. We're very happy they could join us," she said.

The luncheon was accompanied by an island show featuring the Tasi and the Ali's,

composed of Tasi, Rex, John, Bernard, Ken, Marilyn, Kate, Shelby, and Momoko.

Following the performance, Fiesta Resort staff invited the *man'amko* to a dance showdown. Of the seven pairs that joined the contest, the tandem of Leonides Marinas and Felisa Basa earned the nod of the Fiesta Resort staff who named them the winners. They each got \$100.

Maxim Mereb and Christiana Michael were declared second place, each receiving \$50 cash. Fiesta Resort gift packs were given to the other pairs as consolation prizes.

On behalf of the *man'amko*, Saipan Seniors Advisory Council chair Teresita Sorroza expressed gratitude to Fiesta Resort & Spa. "They never forget the *man'amko* so we thank them from the bottom of our hearts," she said.

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR Yard Maintenance Service for property Sinapalo, Rota

### RFP 12-01

#### SERVICES REQUIRED

The Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT), a public trust of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands requests proposals from interested persons/firms to provide yard maintenance services for MPLT property located in Sinapalo subdivision, Rota. Interested parties are kindly requested to call 3224401/4402 for information on the property location.

#### SCOPE OF SERVICES

Provide onetime general clean-up (removal and disposal of over-grown vegetation) followed by a monthly yard maintenance service.

#### PACKAGES & SUBMITTAL DATE

Please submit letter of interest to include a onetime general clean-up rate and monthly rate to the attention of Barbara Reyes, Office Manager, Marianas Public Land Trust P.O. Box 501089, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, November 30, 2011.

*Interested parties are welcome to conduct a survey of the site.*

This public notice is also available on our website at [www.mplt.gov.mp](http://www.mplt.gov.mp). Interested parties are asked to contact Ms. Barbara Reyes Monday-Friday between 8:00am to 5:00pm or email [mplt@mplt.gov.mp](mailto:mplt@mplt.gov.mp)





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 <b>PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT</b> 	
<b>INVITATION FOR BID IFB NO.: IFB12-OHS-001</b>	
<b>SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 04, 2012      TIME: 10:00 A.M.</b>	
<b>"PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF FOURTEEN (14) JERSEY BARRIERS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION - CHALAN KIYA SUBSTATION"</b>	
<small>PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS MAY RETRIEVE A COPY OF THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THE INVITATION FOR BIDS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.</small>	
<small>A MANDATORY SITE VISIT WILL BE HELD ON <b>DECEMBER 12, 2011 AT 10:00 A.M.</b> AT THE CUC CHALAN KIYA SUBSTATION.</small>	
<small>ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. CARL DELA CRUZ, OHS PROCUREMENT OFFICER BY E-MAIL TO <a href="mailto:chs.delacruz@gmail.com">chs.delacruz@gmail.com</a> NO LATER THAN THE <b>CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2011.</b></small>	
<small>THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.</small>	
<small>/S/ MARVIN K. SEMAN SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY</small>	<small>/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&amp;S</small>



# 'Veterans Affairs shifting its focus to remote areas'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Veterans Affairs is now "shifting" its focus from high density areas to small density populations, which include the Pacific Islands like the CNMI and Guam.

Dr. James E. Hastings, director of the VA Pacific Islands Health Care System, said that Veterans Affairs has been focused on densely populated cities and "didn't spend as much of an effort" in rural areas.

"What we're doing now is changing that—shifting—and



CLARISSA V. DAVID  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs VA Pacific Islands Health Care System director James E. Hastings, center, is flanked by, from left, Michael C. Soucie, Andrew Dahlburg, Ruth Coleman, and Craig Oswald after the Saipan Veterans Town Hall Meet at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater on Nov. 16.

we're putting a big emphasis on developing rural health care, taking care of people in more remote areas, in the areas where they live, in the moving out of putting people in boxes, in hos-

pitals, and do more at trying to take care of them wherever they live," Hastings told *Saipan Tribune*.

Hastings was on island for the Saipan Veterans Town Hall

Meet attended by about 30 veterans and their family members on Nov. 16 at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater in Garapan.

Hastings, who also chairs the Department of Medicine at the University of Hawaii School of Medicine, was joined during his

brief visit to Saipan by Andrew Dahlburg, Craig Oswald, and Michael C. Soucie, also of the VA Pacific Islands Health Care System.

Hastings said that while the Pacific Islands are in an "isolated" and "very rural" place, there are also other rural and isolated

places in the U.S. mainland.

He noted that VA wasn't that supportive of low density and isolated places across the nation when he joined the organization six years ago. VA's focus has since then changed, he said, "largely" under the leadership of Secretary Eric Shinseki, who is changing the way VA sees its role.

"We're pushing to do more outreach, to go out into these areas and find some of our remote and isolated populations and build healthcare in these areas and to try and build systems that will allow our veterans to improve their quality of life," he explained.

This change, Hastings said, is part of an ongoing national movement in the U.S. called "patient-centered care" which is widening the definition of how VA ends up interacting with patients to improve access to healthcare.

"That's what we're trying to build and I think our efforts are parallel to what's going on nationally in how healthcare is evolving," added Hastings.

## Ex-convict harassed single mom for over 2 years

An ex-convict who repeatedly ignored a court order to stay away from a single working mother was found in contempt of court and was sentenced to four months in prison.

In a written order issued Monday, Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman said the undisputed findings show that Robert Jake Palacios violated court orders when he harassed and threatened the victim for more than two years.

Wiseman said that Palacios must be seriously deterred and restrained from any further violations of the ongoing court's order of protection.

The court issued the order of protection for the victim on April 20, 2011, directing Palacios to stay away from the vic-

tim, a former girlfriend, and stop disturbing her peace and that of her 4-year-old son.

Despite this, Palacios, on several occasions, called the victim and harassed her through text messages. Some of the messages contained threats to the victim's life and safety. Palacios told the victim in one or more of these communications that he did not care about the court's order of protection.

Wiseman said that, based on the findings, he finds Palacios violating the court's order of protection, in particular, by disturbing the petitioner's peace and threatening her on several occasions.

Wiseman said the record in this family court case as well as in the prior family court matter

show a continuing pattern of egregious conduct by Palacios toward the victim, which includes threats to kill her.

The judge said that Palacios threw a rock at her car in 2010, breaking her windshield, and repeatedly called her place of work, violating the court's order of protection.

Wiseman said Palacios placed the victim in such fear of him that she had to be escorted from the courtroom after a hearing as he was outside and was making threatening gestures at her.

Wiseman said that Palacios has also shown disrespect for the court's orders as he has had multiple bench warrants for failing to appear in court when ordered to do so in this case as well as in prior cases. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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# Over 1,000 wristbands sold to help Japan

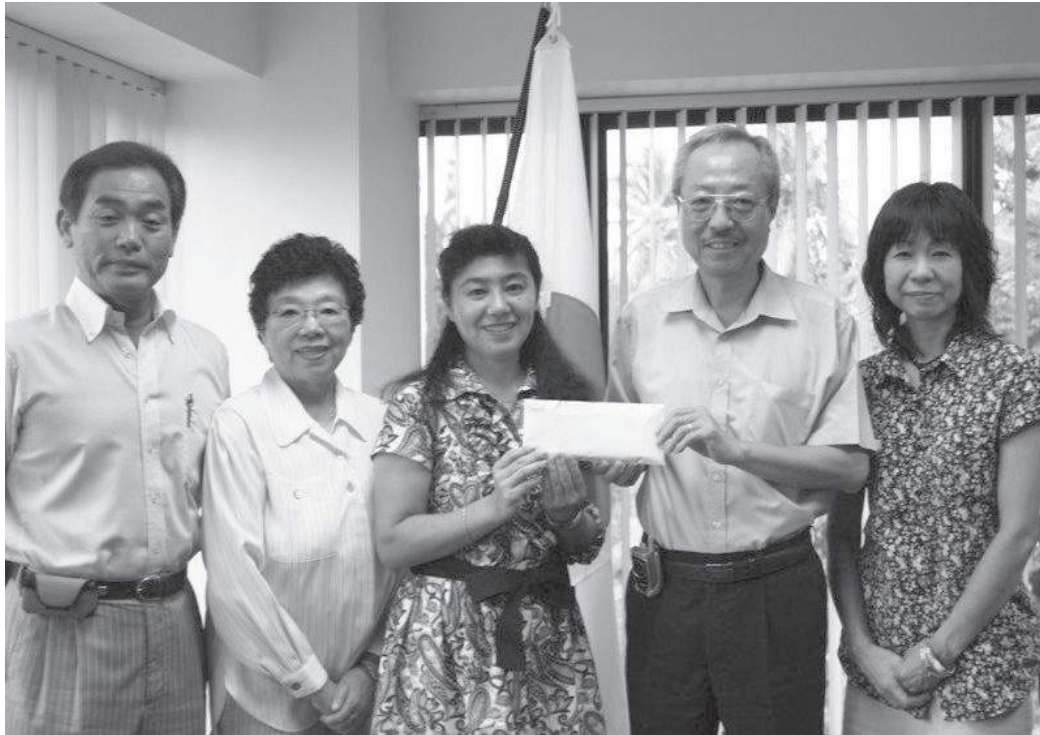
By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Stamp Rally campaign No. 12 of PDM Promoters, Inc. sold a total of 1,114 wristbands in efforts to raise funds to help the victims of the earthquake and tsunami that devastated Japan in March.

The fundraising efforts, which ran from July 1 to Sept. 30, involved the sale of silicone wristbands bearing the Saipanda logo, the words "Saipan, Tinian, Rota," and the message "Pray for Japan" in 12 distribution centers: Aglaia Restaurant, Ananas, Country House Restaurant, Crazy Toy, Furusato Restaurant, Kinpachi Restaurant, Convenience Kinpachi, Lavi Duty Free, Moby Dick Restaurant, PDI, Tony Roma's, and Capricciosa.

Sonia Siwa of PDM Promoters, Inc. said that the Stamp Rally Campaign is held twice a year during summer from July to September and winter from December to April.

The campaign gives shoppers on Saipan a chance to earn one stamp for every \$1 purchase at any of the 12 distribution centers. Earned stamps entitle the shoppers to exchange them for any Saipanda souvenir item available at Kinpachi Restaurant in



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Japan Consul Tsutomu Higuchi, second right, accepts the \$3,342 check donation from Kinpachi Restaurant's Misako Kamata, Keiko Kamata, and Yoshiko Toyokawa and Furusato Restaurant's Hideaki Sawada at the Consulate office on Monday.

Garapan.

Siwa disclosed that they thought of merging campaign No. 12 with the selling of the wristbands, sold for \$3 each, to raise funds for the Japan disaster victims.

About 4,500 wristbands were available for sale during the campaign, she said.

The fundraising event collected a total of \$3,342, which

was handed by Misako Kamata, Keiko Kamata, and Yoshiko Toyokawa of Kinpachi Restaurant and Hideaki Sawada of Furusato Restaurant to Japan Consul Tsutomu Higuchi at the Consulate on Monday.

According to Siwa, they will continue selling the rest of the wristbands for their Stamp Rally campaign No. 13 which starts this week and will run un-

til March 31, 2012.

"We urge the community to continue supporting our Stamp Rally campaign and buy the silicone wristbands for sale to help our brothers and sisters in Japan to recover from the aftermath of the March disaster," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

To buy the wristband or for more information, call 234-6900.

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 30, 2000

### BTC joins campaign against drunk driving

The Department of Commerce's Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control Division is joining heightened government campaign against drunk driving through a series of classes aimed at educating establishments about serving liquor responsibly. In an interview, ABTC Director Andrew Salas emphasized the need to safeguard Northern Marianas streets against drunk drivers especially during the holidays when alcoholic beverages are a usual part of the celebration. Mr. Salas said ABTC is holding the 3D classes both on Saipan and on Rota to increase awareness among restaurant and bar managers, bartenders and wait staff on the responsible serving of alcoholic beverages in order to minimize alcohol-related road accidents.

### Students urged to heed scholarship deadlines

Northern Marianas College students were advised yesterday to depart from typical habits of procrastination in the completion of their scholarship applications in efforts to foster a speedy and orderly financial aid system that has provided thousands of students opportunities to survive the high costs of American postsecondary education. CNMI Scholarship Office Administrator Hilaria K. Santos and NMC Financial Aid Director Ramon Basa prodded students to be mindful of deadlines in the submission of scholarship requirements. While Ms. Santos acknowledged the students' seeming need to secure their tuition checks on time, the administrator stressed that the students' full cooperation is also necessary to expedite the application process.

Nov. 30, 2001

### Transition budget hangs on Senate's action

House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial yesterday clarified that, contrary to previous reports, it is the Senate that has to act on the budget for the Transition Committee and not the House of Representatives. Fitial told reporters that the money to be appropriated for the transition and inaugural activities should be treated as part of the Fiscal Year 2002 budget and any changes on that budget should be done at the Senate. The \$206.97 million budget measure for Fiscal Year 2002 is now with the Senate after the House of Representatives passed the bill on October 29. Since then, House Bill 12-423 has been pending at the upper chamber.

### DPS, private sector to foster safe holidays

The Department of Public Safety and the private sector have forged anew a partnership, created to ensure the community's safety during the holiday season. Together, the agencies have formed a special group—the 3D Committee—tasked to promote against drunk and drugged driving. The committee comprised of the police department, the Pacific Trading and the Pacific Development Inc. are set to ensure that next month's yuletide and year-end celebrations do not result into fatalities. "We have seen an increase of private sector participation in the battle against impaired driving in the past two years. And we still welcome more volunteers from the community," said Police Major Clyde Norita.

Nov. 30, 2002

### Firm cited for illegal construction

The Coastal Resources Management Office sanctioned a private company yesterday for constructing three buildings within its compound without securing the necessary permit. CRMO enforcement section chief Martin Cabrera said his men discovered the illegal activity upon inspecting the premises of the Rifu Apparel Corp. in As Lito. The company was directed to pay a \$10,000-fine and to submit the necessary permit application with the CRMO, Cabrera said. In the meantime, the environmental agency directed that the building construction be stopped.

### CDA microloan reaches \$378K in 2001

The Commonwealth Development Authority has approved the release of several Microloan packages worth more than \$378,000 at the end of financial year 2001, in line with its effort to help small businesses weather the hard economic times. The Microloan Program, which is implemented in the Northern Marianas in partnership with the Guam-based United States Small Business Administration, cushions the suspension of the CDA's direct loan program. MaryLou S. Ada, CDA executive director, previously said the Microloan Program targets new and existing businesses that are in need of fresh money as start-up capital or for expansion.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### LITERACY PROGRAM

Thirty-one parents successfully completed the Motherhead Family Literacy Program offered at Head Start Centers around Saipan. Graduates, pictured above with Motherhead and Head Start staff, received their completion certificates at a well-attended ceremony held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center on Tuesday. Motherhead is sponsored by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council in conjunction with Head Start, Public School System, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. Special thanks go to Head Start director Melissa Palacios and Multi-Purpose Center supervisor Dino Palacios for helping make the graduation ceremony a memorable event. Parents interested in attending Motherhead are encouraged to contact program coordinator Viola S. Deleon Guerrero at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to our very own Principal of the Year, Mr. Vincent Dela Cruz! May you have a great day! God bless you and many more birthdays. Greetings come from your COJHS staff!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 3rd birthday to Draven John C. Tudela! Love, Dad, Mom, Jr, Franco Ray, Grandpa, Grandma, and Nina.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Please look forward, please look behind, and count each birthday with a grateful mind. Age is strictly a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter. You're not 42, you're 18 with 24 years of experience. Happy birthday Eric Mahinay and enjoy your day! Greetings come from the Three Stooges.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





# High Court rules against Guerrero

The Commonwealth Supreme Court has affirmed a Superior Court ruling that convicted former gubernatorial candidate Juan Guerrero of driving under the influence of alcohol.

In a ruling issued Monday, Nov. 28, in *Commonwealth v. Guerrero*, the Supreme Court determined that the evidence presented during Guerrero's bench trial was sufficient to uphold his conviction.

The events leading up to Guerrero's conviction began on the evening of March 4, 2010, when his SUV hit a sedan being driven by Chester Cuento along the northbound outer lane of Chalan Palé Arnold Road in Gualo Rai, Saipan. After interviewing both Guerrero and Cuento, and observing that Guerrero was displaying visible signs of intoxication, the officers at the accident arrested

Guerrero, believing that he was driving under the influence of alcohol. After a bench trial, the trial court convicted Guerrero of driving under the influence of alcohol. Guerrero appealed, contending that there trial court lacked sufficient evidence to convict him.

The Supreme Court's full opinion can be found at [http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme\\_11.htm](http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme_11.htm). (*CNMI Judiciary*)

## Alleged driver of getaway vehicle served with warrant

Oscar Porras Jr., the alleged driver of a getaway vehicle used to rob a female Japanese tourist, was served Friday afternoon with an arrest warrant in connection with the robbery.

Police served the arrest warrant on the 33-year-old Porras at the Department of Corrections. The warrant was issued by Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that Porras failed to post the \$100

cash bail after being arrested last week for allegedly stealing a case of beer from Grand Market in Lower Navy Hill.

Porras was taken to court yesterday afternoon for a hearing in the Garapan case on charges of robbery, theft, assault with a dangerous weapon, and disturbing the peace.

Wiseman imposed a \$50,000 cash bail on Porras.

Porras' cousin, Gustavo Ybanez Jr., was first arrested

last week after a witness tagged him as the man who grabbed the bag from a tourist along Beach Road, Garapan, on Nov. 16. In that incident, the female victim was dragged several meters by the car after she tried to stop the robbery by holding on to the car's window.

Police said Ybanez confessed to detectives that it was Porras who drove their getaway vehicle, a Nissan Pathfinder. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## Noel Parami Bonachita, 51

This is to inform all friends and relatives that Noel Parami Bonachita passed away on Nov. 26, 2011, on Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Daily rosary is being held at the Hyatt Staff Housing, second floor lounge, at 6pm, from Nov. 26, 2011, to Dec. 4, 2011. Bonachita is survived by his daughters Agnes Nelgie, Leslyn, and Jeanica, and son Jason. (*PR*)



### Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

#### State Rehabilitation Council

PO Box 506296 Saipan, MP 96950,  
TEL.: (670)322-6537 FAX: (670)322-6536  
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY'12 First General Membership on Thursday, December 01, 2011 at the Caladium Hall, Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort at 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

#### OFFICERS

**CHAIRPERSON**  
Isidro K. Seman

**VICE CHAIRPERSON**  
Pamela Sablan

**SECRETARY**  
Diane Camacho

**FISCAL**  
Jeremy Atalig

#### AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call by SRC Secretary**
- III. Review and adoption of Agenda**
- IV. Review and adoption of the FY'11 4th Meeting Minutes (09/08/11)**
- V. Reports**
  - a. OVR Director
  - b. Sub-Committees
  - c. SRC Chairman
- VI. Old Business**
  - FY 2012 Committee Activities
  - TSA Airport Security Briefing
  - OVR E-Rehab Modules Training
- VII. New Business**
  - FY 2012 State Plan Forums
  - 2012 SRC Resource Plan
  - OVR Urgencies
- VIII. Consumer Forum**
  - TSA Airport Security Presentation
- IX. Announcements/Miscellaneous**
- X. Adjournment**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) two days before the meeting. For more clarification, please contact Elvira Seman at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY).

/s/ Isidro K. Seman  
CHAIRMAN



### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-12-003

#### Urgent Repair: Fuel Tank Nos. R1, R3, R4 & Piping, Rota Power Plant

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified contractors or firms for the Urgent Repair of Fuel Tanks Nos. R1, R3, R4 & Piping, Rota Power Plant, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The tanks have been cleaned and undergone API inspections and they are not currently in use. The piping or part of the piping may still be in use and they would be emptied by CUC and handed over for the necessary work through a mutually arranged schedule with the winning contractor. Contractors are advised that the work will be carried out as a part of CUC response actions under the consent decree noted as Stipulated Order No. 2 (SO 2).

The Scope-of-Work and Proposal package will be emailed, upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 100.00 for one set, upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working days, from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM local time, until December 9, 2011.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a mandatory site visit is scheduled for **November 28, 2011 at 10:30 AM (ChST)** at CUC Rota Power Plant No. 1, Songsong village, Rota to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or performance of work under the contract.

**One (1) Original and Seven(7) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "RFP-12-003 – Urgent Repair: Fuel Tank Nos. R1, R3, R4 & Pipeline, Rota Power Plant" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **December 15, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

The Offeror is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

A Proposal Guarantee of 15 percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of *one hundred (100%) percent* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful proposers. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of *one hundred (100%) percent* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful proposers. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code, with the proposal.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 (ChST) on December 9, 2011**, to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Procurement & Supply Manager via email at [msablan@cucgov.net](mailto:msablan@cucgov.net); Ms. Mika Muna via email at [mika.muna@cucgov.org](mailto:mika.muna@cucgov.org); Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Project coordinator SO 2 via email at [venu@cucgov.net](mailto:venu@cucgov.net) and Mr. Edward Chargulaf, Technical Manager for Oil via email at [ed.char@cucgov.org](mailto:ed.char@cucgov.org).

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the interest of the government.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE  
Executive Director



### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-12-004

#### SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC GENERATION (Phase No. 2)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced Independent Power Producers (IPP) to supply electrical energy and other products generated from commercially proven Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) systems for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The solicitation seeks responses from suitably qualified developers from which the CUC intends to select one, or more, respondent(s) to negotiate Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) and install generation PV facilities that best fit the CUC requirements. Selected IPPs will be responsible for operating and maintaining all facets of the Generating Facility (ies) and for generating the required output as described in this RFP. The scope of services requested in this RFP shall include, but not be limited to, securing sites, all permits and approvals from governing agencies, and providing all labor, services and equipment necessary to design, procure, install, construct, test, commission, monitor, operate, and maintain fully operational Generating Facilities.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **December 01, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**, at CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Center in Saipan.

**One (1) original and Six (6) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-12-004 "Solar Photovoltaic Generation (Phase No. 2)" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **December 16, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **December 09, 2011** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address [msablan@cucgov.net](mailto:msablan@cucgov.net); Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address [mika.muna@cucgov.org](mailto:mika.muna@cucgov.org); and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director, Power Generation/Distribution, via address email [wallon59@yahoo.com](mailto:wallon59@yahoo.com). CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE  
Executive Director



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

By TRUDY RUBIN  
The Philadelphia InquirerTrudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at [trubin@phillynews.com](mailto:trubin@phillynews.com).

## Egypt's adept Islamists outsmart military

As young revolutionaries once again battle Egyptian security forces in Tahrir Square, only one group stands to emerge victorious from the melee: the Islamist cadres of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Although the current violence has pitted revolutionary youth against the army, the real tussle is between the Brotherhood and the council of generals that is now ruling the country. Unable to think strategically, and (mercifully) unwilling to murder thousands, the generals have been outfoxed by the Islamists.

While the youth rage, and the military dithers, the Brothers advance step by step toward victory in elections that start Monday. The Islamists know that, irrespective of how this week's violence ends, the legitimacy bestowed by an election is the ticket to power in Egypt in the near term. And they believe that this legitimacy will enable them to curb the power of the army in the longer run.

The current round of violence was triggered by a massive Islamist demonstration Friday in Tahrir Square (which deteriorated after the army clashed with revolutionary youth who subsequently poured into the square).

The Muslim Brotherhood had called for the demonstration weeks earlier as a warning to the generals not to interfere with the elections. The generals—known as the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, or SCAF—were not always at loggerheads with the Brotherhood. Shortly after the Tahrir Square revolution, the Brotherhood made a quiet deal with the SCAF to leave each other alone.

The SCAF expected that the Islamists wouldn't object if the generals retained their perks and powers after the voting. The Brotherhood had pledged to contest only 30 percent of the seats, and didn't seem like a daunting threat. Instead, the SCAF turned against secular opposition groups—including revolutionary youth. It distrusted the seculars because it feared it couldn't control them. Many of the youth were beaten up or hauled before military tribunals, and human-rights groups were threatened with lawsuits. The warmth that the revolutionary youth had felt for the army rapidly vanished.

Meantime, the political situation on the ground developed differently than what the army had foreseen. As expected, liberal and social democratic parties proved unable to organize. But far more problematic from the military's point of view, the Muslim Brotherhood, with its long-honed network of followers and a reputation for providing social services, proved stronger than expected.

The Brotherhood fielded the Freedom and Justice Party, which now plans to contend for 70 percent to 90 percent of the seats. Moreover, hard-line Salafi Islamists, abandoning their previous rejection of elections, organized four political parties that joined in a coalition and proved adept at grassroots campaigning.

Although they dislike each other, the Brotherhood and the

See EGYPT on Next Page



"BECAUSE THE PROTESTERS ARE OUT OF CONTROL."

## Resistance and survival at Auschwitz

On Jan. 24, 1943, 230 French women who had been arrested for resistance activities were put on a train at Compiegne, outside Paris, and sent to Auschwitz. The youngest had just celebrated her 17th birthday; the oldest was 67. They were teachers and seamstresses, students and farmers' wives; there was a doctor, a dentist and several editors and chemists. They were to be a lesson to other would-be troublemakers.

The women were not Jewish, so they were not sent immediately to be gassed. However, they were subjected to interminable roll calls in arctic conditions, crushingly tough physical labor and the random, ceaseless brutality of the SS guards. Typhus was rife in the camp. There was very little to eat and almost no water to drink. Minor transgressions were punished with excessive savagery.

Even so, 49 of these women lived to return to France in the late spring of 1945. It was an exceptionally high proportion: More than one in five made it through the war in a camp in which death was virtually inevitable.

The fact that the women were not Jewish but deportees politiques, or resisters, was important to their survival, but not as much, those who lived would later say, as luck. Luck governed life and death in Auschwitz: the luck not to catch typhus, not to lose your shoes (being barefoot in below-freezing winter temperatures meant certain death), not to fall and attract the attention of the guards and their whips, not to be mauled by the SS dogs.

But there was another characteristic shared by these French women that played a critical part in their survival: their commitment to a cause.

One hundred nineteen of the women were communists, supporters of Leon Blum's prewar Popular Front. Many of them had spent the 1930s protesting fascism in Spain and Italy and against the Nazis in Germany. They had assisted refugees fleeing into France. Together, they had been to meetings and dreamed of a fairer, more equal world. Others fought hard against the German occupiers and their Vichy collaborators as Gaullists, or they fought simply out of personal convictions so strong that to do nothing was impossible.

As a group, they were committed and accustomed to fighting for their beliefs, even if they were unpopular. This was particularly true for the communist women, who had spent the two years after the signing of the German-Soviet nonaggression pact in August 1939 as pariahs, driven to conduct their battles underground. The courage all these women carried with them to Auschwitz—their determination to survive in order to bear witness to the atrocities of the extermination camps—had been shaped long before, as they helped to print and distribute anti-Nazi posters and newspapers, ferried Jews to safety across the demarcation line into unoccupied France or carried weapons in the baskets of their bicycles.

When I began research for a book about the women in 2009, six of the 230 were still alive. They were formidable and humorous, daunting in their toughness and fortitude, and it was impossible not to wonder which of us would have behaved so bravely in

By CAROLINE MOOREHEAD  
Los Angeles Times

Caroline Moorehead's book, *A Train in Winter: An Extraordinary Story of Women, Friendship and Resistance in Occupied France*, is out this month. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



similar circumstances.

"It was different for us," one of the women, Madeleine, told me. "We weren't victims; we knew what we were risking. It gave us a strength, a desire to live, to see a better postwar world. It kept our spirits strong."

More than half of those who survived had been the most politically disciplined and committed before the war. Like Madeleine, Cecile, another survivor—a robust, outspoken Breton in her late 80s—was an active communist. She told me that when she was forced to go into hiding in Paris because the Gestapo was closing in on her, she had asked her mother to look after her 11-year-old daughter. "How can you do this," her mother had said, "when you have a child?" "It is precisely because I have a child," Cecile replied, "that I am doing it. I do not want her to grow up in a world of German occupiers and French collaborators."

And there was something else that defined these women: They were unusually close friends. Held together in a fort outside Paris, they had looked after one another, shared food and stories, comforted those whose husbands were shot, watched over the younger and cared for the older. And it was as friends that they faced, together, month after month, experiences that lay at the very outer limits of human endurance. It was a luxury not afforded many of the inmates of the Nazi camps.

None had known, in the early years of the German occupation, what might happen to resisters. Their courage was that of ordinary people, outraged by events and behavior that seemed to them too repugnant to endure, and it is something of this spirit and passion that drives the Arab Spring today, with its belief that there is a better world that can, and must, be fought for, whatever the personal danger.

Would the women have been so brave, so heedless of their own safety, had they known what they risked?

Probably not. There were many mothers of young children among them, and they would surely not have left them in such a way. But, finding themselves in a situation of extreme adversity, they did what fighters and believers do: They held themselves together, helped their friends, resisted their oppressors, planned for a better world. It was a cast of mind, the strength that comes with moral clarity and the commitment to a cause, an utter determination not to be defeated, that brought so many home.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Micronesian leadership

Perhaps it was fortune that I was wedged right into the better side of history. It enabled the privilege for this scribe to work for what was known as the Congress of Micronesia. Oh, the pleasantries of working for the leadership giants of the region, men of intellectual acuity, proactive sense of leadership, humility, and wisdom. They were men of real stature, gift-wrapped in humility as to even share the wisdom basket generously during session breaks.

It was a real learning experience observing how they probe and deal with issues. You listen to the floor debate premised on reasoned analysis, though humor was sometime used to temper heated discussions. How pleasant that was in the pioneering years of island nation building. I've benefited tremendously from their wisdom, vision, sturdy disposition, even humor. This forged my being issue-oriented or being able to see the larger picture or forest over the trees.

The likes of Tosiwo Nakayama, Dwight Heine, Amata Kabua, Lazarus Salii, Luke Tman, Bethwel Henry, Bailey Olter, John Mangefel, Petrus Tun, Ray Setik, and Andon Amaraich were the giant navigators who charted the course of island nation building in consultation with traditional chiefs across Micronesia. Though faced with the challenges of the demands of modernity, they still gave humble deference to the role of tradition that has guided the survival of their people for more than 4,000 years.

Though a sovereign Micronesia with all six administrative districts didn't materialize, it didn't change the fact that the subsequent establishment of the FSM and Republics of Belau and the Marshalls were still under the sturdy hands of the folks mentioned above. Indeed, most have gone upstairs to claim their leadership trophies.

I have seen huge curtains raised and lowered like the Micronesian Constitutional Convention in 1975 and the NMI's in subsequent months, two status negotiations; law of the sea conference; and a visit to Rongelap, Utirik and Bikini in the Republic of the Marshalls

on the annual check-up of the folks by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission in 1974. The level of thyroid disorder is 20 percent higher than the national average. (Will discuss this later).

However superbly endowed with wisdom, they still would come by our office and ask that we review major statements they have written destined for delivery at some prestigious international or regional body. I wasn't about to tinker with the likes of the late President Amata Kabua and John Mangefel, each of whom won rewards in English Literature at UH or elsewhere. How do you improve upon another superbly written statement from the late President of Belau Lazarus Salii? Not with my off the ranch grammar, poor comprehension of issues and concepts and a wobbly diction. It is for this reason that I call it a real learning experience.

These folks say their piece off the prepared text as they speak. It shows their depth and clarity of understanding of the issue at hand and makes for pleasant listening for any and all continuing students of government. It's a tale of confidence echoing in their words, wisdom, and conviction. Some are poetic in their expressions, others bluntly straightforward, while still others were soft spoken though powerfully thoughtful and tactful in the use of words of wisdom.

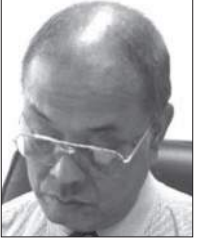
Yes, they all came from the far-flung islands of Micronesia that stretches from Mili in the Republic of the Marshalls to Tobi in Belau and the Taga Stone isles of the NMI. Conventional wisdom has it that Micronesia stands for small islands. How about a sea of islands? I mean, there's the spread of pearly isles in the open waters. A bit more fitting, isn't it?

I've spent time in Belau admiring nature's gift of the pristine Rock Islands. It's a unique experience altogether. I am especially impressed by its traditional fishing method where you only catch what you'd eat that day. What grand camaraderie as fishermen return home from fishing trips and spread the catch among friends and family. And they guard their fishing tradition to ensure that fu-

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

*Special to the Saipan Tribune*

*DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.*



ture generations can still fish the traditional way even as man "sails among the stars."

Pohnpei was a totally unique experience in itself. It's known as the Rain Garden of Micronesia for the constant drizzle daily. I visited Nan Madol, the burial ground of traditional chiefs. The pile of rocks was all done by raw human power centuries ago. I mean, try lifting one of the small broken pieces (4" x 12") that weighs about 30-40 lbs. Imagine the pile on the grave that stretches about eight feet long and 12 inches wide each. It must weigh a ton. Ah, yes, the distant ring of a *sakau* gathering in *nahs* or *utt* at sunset.

That was the pinnacle of my government career. But a trip down memory lane awakens the yearning for real leadership with vision and integrity. I have yet to see such pleasantries in the local political arena. Most are stuck in the filthy mud of provincialism. Perhaps I'm a spoiled brat after my stint with the intellectual and leadership giants of the region.

■ ■ ■ ■

As an established musician, I'd listen to new talents whip it up in the local music scene. Very impressed with Ace Elameto whose rendition and medley of Lovely Flower represents real talent. I mean Ace deserves being called Mr. Harmony. His voice, first and second, easily follows the key he presses on the keyboard. His music is one very pleasant and soothing harmony!

Would also salute Alfred Saures and Marvin Guerrero. These are two up-and-coming musicians who would fill the air and parties for many years to come. What pleasantries it is listening to musicians who have both the voice and talent to mix it in so their music gels during performance. Yes, there are those who will never make it, but let me employ polite niceties, you know, there are things best left unsaid.

## Letter to the Editor

## Something to think about

We knew all along when we became a U.S. Commonwealth that minimum wage and immigration will eventually be taken over by the federal government. When Public Law 110-229 was extended to the CNMI it became a "U.S. port of entry" or a "gateway" to the United States. As such, all ports of entry into the United States are under the jurisdictional responsibility of the Department of Homeland Security.

Knowing that Kilili's bill, HR 1466, extends to certain specific groups who might be eligible for temporary parole, USCIS decided to provide humanitarian parole to persons in the four groups covered by HR 1466. The action taken by Secretary Janet Napolitano and USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas says a lot about their compassion for their fellow human beings.

A great many of the guest workers did not come to the CNMI of their own accord. They were brought here because we (the CNMI) needed them to enhance the economy of the CNMI. We lack professionals so we had to bring them in from abroad. As years went by, the CMNI continued to express the need for continued employment of these guest workers and every year our government renewed their labor and immigration papers because we continued to need them to help us develop our economy. As a result, many of these workers remained in the CNMI for decades. We have grown accustomed to their presence and have become used to having them and they have learned to be live amongst us. The vast majority of guest workers pay taxes, pay rent to landlords, pay utilities, buy their needs from local stores, and help clean parts of our islands.

When U.S. Law 110-229 was extended to the CNMI, our local Immigration and Labor office reported a total of 22,417 guest workers present in the CNMI. Most of them, if not all, were granted umbrella permits to enable them to stay until Nov. 27, 2011, when USCIS receives applications for CW1 and CW2.

A few months ago, Congressman Kilili introduced H.R. 1466 to allow specific groups of people to remain in the CNMI legally. This bill is still in Congress and will probably take several more months before it can become law; at least we hope that it will ultimately become law for the sake of those who might be eligible to remain on island by virtue of their unique status. The "humanitarian gesture" demonstrated by officials of DHS, to extend the stay of those who might otherwise be covered by H.R. 1466 for one year pend-

ing further action by the U.S. government is the greatest thing ever since the discovery of "toasted bread." In all due respect, though, we should all thank Secretary Janet Napolitano and Mr. Mayorkas for their kind-hearted gesture and for their initiative.

The people of the CNMI should appreciate the presence of all the guest workers as well as investors who have toiled and sacrificed so that we may look toward a better life for all of us here in the CNMI. We have witnessed the ups and downs of our economy. The stores and shops are experiencing a drop in their sales. The World Trade Organization virtually killed our garment industry and some 15,000 workers have had to leave the CNMI. The departure of the garment workers adversely affected businesses. Since federalization, I understand that many guest workers have left the CNMI. The 2010 census seem to indicate a total population of 46,000 plus/minus. I am sure that this figure will continue to decrease. Many of our people have gone to Guam and the United States. If this trend continues, I am afraid that there will not be too many people living on these islands. More businesses will have to shut down and more unemployment. Saipan, Tinian, and Rota might become a "ghost town." If and when that happens, we need to reduce the size of the government to a realistic level. Convert the bicameral Legislature to unicameral with no more than, say, 10 lawmakers. Let's have a part-time Legislature and have a Bureau to work year-around with a total budget of say, \$2 million. Executive Branch employees will have to be cut to 60 percent of what we now have. The budget for the Executive Branch should be commensurate with the number of FTE's after the cut. The Public School System will be exempted and we need continue to improve our educational system.

Is this real? Perhaps not, but it is something that our elected leaders should be thinking about since the economy of the CNMI is not looking any better. I don't claim to be the "answer man" to all the problems facing the CNMI but I have been around long enough to observe what is happening with the CNMI and what I see dictates drastic changes in our government operations. We must work within our means.

**David M. Sablan Sr.**  
*Chalan Pago, Saipan*

## EGYPT

*From Page 10*

Salafis together could win a majority. Moreover, the newly elected parliament will be designated to pick 100 people to write a new constitution, so an Islamist victory could influence Egypt for decades to come.

Now nervous about the Islamists' growing power, the military made a clumsy attempt nearly a month ago to put forward a set of extra-constitutional principles to restrain them. The principles would have ruled out future civilian control over the army—and the SCAF indicated that it wanted to keep ruling until the middle of 2013.

Furthermore, in a move that infuriated Islamists, control of the 100-person constitutional drafting committee would have been removed from the newly elected parliament. The Muslim Brotherhood immediately called for the huge demonstration. Within 24 hours, the SCAF backtracked, but the demonstration went forward anyway. Then, having shown its strength Friday, the Brotherhood went home and left the liberals and the army to savage each other in Tahrir Square.

Now, the SCAF is backtracking further; on Tuesday, it promised to hold presidential elections by July 2012 and to provide a faster transfer to civilian power. These are necessary moves, but they come very late.

The popularity of the military, the country's strongest institution, was once sky-high, but is rapidly declining. The SCAF cannot restore its position by greater use of force, nor would U.S. intervention (for or against the SCAF) be useful. Egypt is not Syria; the military's honor is based on its refusal to fire on civilians. A bloody crackdown would likely lead to a rebellion within its ranks and would turn most Egyptians against it.

To retain its waning clout, the military must move forward with elections (to delay them would cause a further explosion of violence). And it must transition to a civilian government as soon as possible—no matter who wins the ballot. The Egyptian revolution—dogged by SCAF and liberal failures—must be played out until the end.



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Yap	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 75
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 80

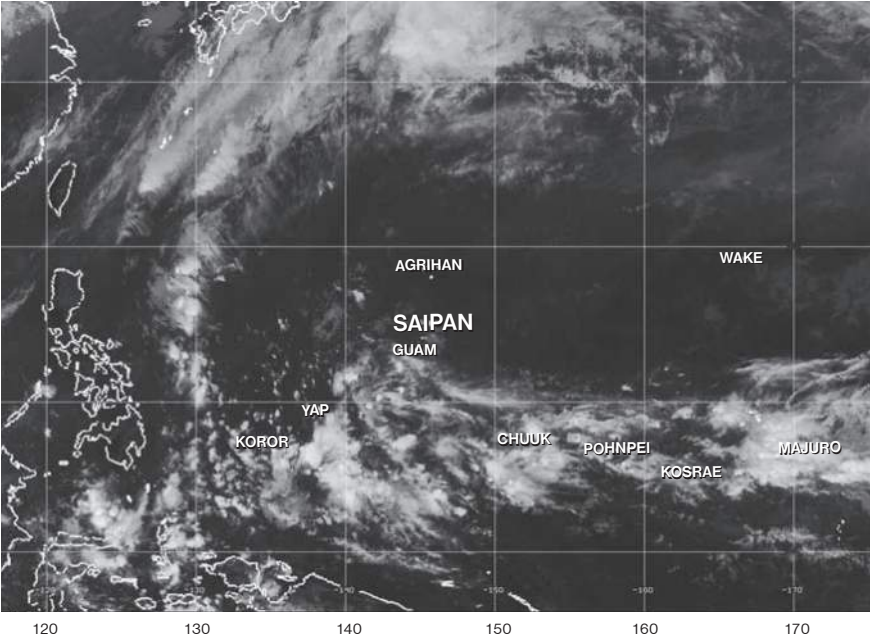
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 58
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 37 ▼ 21
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 71 ▼ 59
Honolulu	Windy	▲ 80 ▼ 73
London	Rain	▲ 54 ▼ 39
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 47
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 65 ▼ 49
Miami	Sunny	▲ 77 ▼ 56
New York	Showers	▲ 53 ▼ 38
Osaka	Showers	▲ 55 ▼ 47
Paris	Fog	▲ 52 ▼ 40
Pusan	Showers	▲ 53 ▼ 45
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 65 ▼ 43
Salem	Sunny	▲ 48 ▼ 33
San Francisco	Windy	▲ 68 ▼ 51
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 35
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 53 ▼ 42
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 52 ▼ 38

### Tides

Saipan Harbor			
5:09 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
12:25 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
6:14 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
10:32 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2011**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging east winds associated with a trade-wind surge are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from Koror and Yap to Chuuk between 2N and 11N from 130E to 156E and also over Kosrae, Kwajalein and Majuro between 4N and 10N from 165E to the date line. Converging southeast winds southeast of a surface trough southeast of Okinawa are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms well northwest of the Marianas northwest of a line from 25N135E to 19N130E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:27 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:27 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Sunday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:42 AM	10:36 PM
Thursday	11:24 AM	11:27 PM
Friday	12:03 PM	
Saturday	12:40 PM	12:16 AM
Sunday	1:16 PM	1:03 AM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

#### PICTURES

- **ISLAND SNAPSHOTS**  
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**  
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- **BUSINESS**  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- **SAMUT SARI**  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- **TRAVELOGUE**  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- **CAMPUS BULLETIN**  
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

#### REQUIREMENTS

##### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

##### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

#### HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or [jayvee\\_vallejera@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com).
  - Fax: (670) 235-3740
  - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
  - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2011

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5	C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5	C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05070	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP	C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily	C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6	C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6	C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT	C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM	PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM	C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am	1, 5 via GUM	C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am	3, 6 via GUM				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C05076/179	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN	C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Business

## Euro in danger, Europe races for debt solution

**PARIS (AP)**—European leaders rushed Monday to stop a rampaging debt crisis that threatened to shatter their 12-year-old experiment in a common currency and devastate the world economy as a result.

One proposal gaining prominence would have countries cede some control over their budgets to a central European authority. In a measure of how rapidly the peril has grown, that idea would have been unthinkable even three months ago.

World stock markets, glimpsing hope that Europe might finally be shocked into stronger action, staged a big rally. The Dow Jones industrial average in New York rose almost 300 points. In France, stocks rose 5 percent, the most in a month.

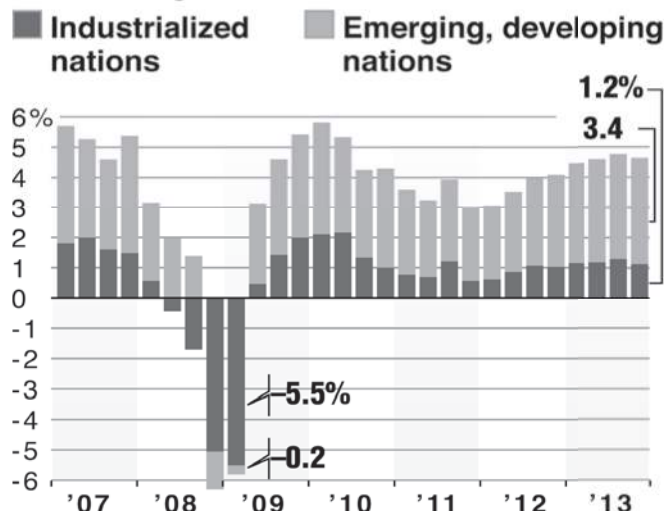
More relevant to the crisis, borrowing costs for European nations stabilized. They had risen alarmingly in recent weeks—in Greece, then in Italy and Spain, then across the continent, including in Germany, the

### A mixed forecast

*According to the OECD's latest report, global growth continues to be led by emerging and developing nations, and the eurozone economy could be entering a brief recession.*

#### Global growth

Percent contribution to annualized quarterly world GDP growth



Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development  
Graphic: Pat Carr

#### Eurozone

Growth projection short term and for 2012

4th qtr., 2011	-1.0%
1st qtr., 2012	-0.4%
Annual, 2012	+0.2%

#### Major economies

Growth forecast, selected industrialized nations

	2011	2012
U.S.	1.7%	2.0%
Japan	-0.3	2.0
Germany	3.0	0.6
U.K.	0.9	0.5
France	1.6	0.3
Italy	0.7	-0.5
Spain	0.7	0.3

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strongest economy in Europe.

The yields on benchmark bonds issued by Italy and Germany rose, but only by hundredths of a percentage point. The yield fell 0.1 percentage point on bonds of France, 0.14 points for those of Spain and 0.22 points for Belgium.

Allowing a central European authority to have some control over the budgets of sovereign nations would create a fiscal union in Europe in addition to the monetary union of the 17 countries that share the euro currency.

Some analysts have said that would be a leap toward creating a United States of Europe. More delicately, it would force the nations of Europe to swallow their national pride, cede some sovereignty and agree to strengthen ties with their neighbors rather than fleeing the euro union during the crisis.

"The common currency has the problem that the monetary policy is joint, but the fiscal policy is not," Germany's finance

minister, Wolfgang Schäuble, said in a meeting with foreign reporters in Berlin.

The monetary union has existed since the euro was created in 1999, but the European Union, which includes the 17 euro nations and 10 others that use their own currencies, has no central authority over taxing and spending.

Countries like Ireland, Portugal, Spain, Greece and Italy overspent wildly for years and racked up annual budget deficits that have left them with monstrous debt. Italy holds euro1.9 trillion in debt, or 120 percent of the size of its economy.

A fiscal union could prevent excessive spending in the future. More important, it would be a step toward addressing today's debt crisis: It could provide cover for the European Central Bank to stage a massive intervention in the European bond market to drive down borrowing costs and keep the debt crisis under control.

## Shoppers snap up Cyber Monday deals

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Shoppers seem to be just as enthusiastic about shopping on their computers and smartphones on Cyber Monday as they were about finding deals over the weekend.

Online sales on Cyber Monday, which was started in 2005 by a retail trade group to encourage Americans to shop online on the Monday after Thanksgiving, were up mid-afternoon by 15 percent from a year ago, according to data from IBM Benchmark. Meanwhile, sales from mobile devices were up 7.4 percent. The group did not give

dollar amounts.

The Cyber Monday numbers point to Americans' growing comfort with using their personal computers, tablets and smartphones to shop. Over the past few years, big chains like Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer, have been offering more and better incentives like hourly deals and free shipping, to capitalize on that trend. It's important for retailers to make a good showing during the holiday shopping season, a time when they can make up to 40 percent of their annual revenue.

On Monday, Amazon.com offered its bigger, more expensive Kindle DX for \$259, or \$120 off the regular price. The Express clothing chain was giving 30 percent off and free shipping on all online orders. And Wal-Mart, which has been calling the holiday "Cyber Week" in ads, was offering an LG 47-inch LED TV for \$879, or \$320 off the regular price.

"Cyber Monday is far more exciting to me than Black Friday," says Jamie Minoso, a 40-year-old English teacher from Alabama. "I do not enjoy the traffic and chaos

involved in shopping at a mall."

To be sure, the strong start to Cyber Monday, created by a unit of The National Retail Federation, follows an even stronger kickoff to the holiday shopping season over the weekend. Americans shopped in record numbers, driven by earlier store openings and a push by retailers for online sales.

A record 226 million shoppers visited stores and websites during the four-day holiday weekend starting on Thanksgiving Day, up from 212 million last year, according to the NRF. And sales

able resolution to the SEC's allegation of negligence" and was consistent with long-established legal standards.

"In the event the case is tried, we would present substantial factual and legal defenses to the charges," it added.

The SEC's consent judgment settling the case was filed the same day as its lawsuit against Citigroup, the judge noted.

"It is harder to discern from the limited information before the court what the SEC is getting from this settlement other than a quick headline," the judge wrote.

## NY judge rejects \$285M SEC-Citigroup agreement

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A judge on Monday used unusually harsh language to strike down a \$285 million settlement between Citigroup and the Securities and Exchange Commission over toxic mortgage securities, saying he couldn't tell whether the deal was fair and criticizing regulators for shielding the public from details of the firm's wrongdoing.

U.S. District Judge Jed Rakoff said the public has a right to know what happens in cases that touch on "the transparency of financial markets whose gyrations have so depressed our

economy and debilitated our lives." In such cases, the SEC has a responsibility to ensure that the truth emerges, he wrote.

Rakoff said he had spent hours trying to assess the settlement but concluded that he had not been given "any proven or admitted facts upon which to exercise even a modest degree of independent judgment."

He called the settlement "neither fair, nor reasonable, nor adequate, nor in the public interest."

The SEC shot back in a statement issued by Enforcement

Director Robert Khuzami, saying the deal was all four of those things and "reasonably reflects the scope of relief that would be obtained after a successful trial."

The SEC had accused the bank of betting against a complex mortgage investment in 2007—making \$160 million in the process—while investors lost millions. The settlement would have imposed penalties on Citigroup but allowed it to deny allegations that it misled investors.

Citigroup said in a statement that it disagreed with Rakoff because the proposed settlement was "a fair and reason-

on Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, rose 7 percent to \$11.4 billion, the largest amount ever spent, according to Shopper-Trak, which gathers stores' data.

Online sales were strong even over the weekend. Thirty-eight

percent of all purchases were made online this year, up from 31 percent to 32 percent last year, says Sherif Mityas, partner in the retail practice of A.T. Kearney, who believes the increase was due to heavy promotions.

#### BUSINESS BRIEFS

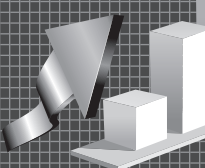
##### Unemployment up, household spending falls in Japan

**TOKYO (AP)**—Japan's jobless rate climbed for the first time in three months in October while household spending and incomes fell, adding to evidence that the country's post-disaster rebound is waning. Government figures released Tuesday showed the unemployment rate adjusted for seasonal variations had jumped to 4.5 percent from 4.1 percent in September. Other recent indicators show slowdowns in exports and industrial production in the face of a strong yen and a sputtering global economy. Japan's economy expanded at an annualized rate of 6 percent in the July-September quarter in an impressive comeback from the March earthquake, tsunami and nuclear accident. But economists have said such robust growth in the world's No. 3 economy is unsustainable.

##### Oil prices rise on holiday sales, Europe hopes

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Oil prices climbed above \$98 per barrel Monday after shoppers pumped up holiday retail sales in the U.S., and investors bet that Europe would find a last-minute solution to its financial crisis. Benchmark crude rose \$1.44 to end the day at \$98.21 per barrel in New York. Brent crude, which is used to price foreign oil—including much imported by U.S. refineries to make gasoline—rose \$2.26 to finish at \$108.02 a barrel in London. Benchmark oil has recovered much of the ground it lost since Nov. 16, when it hit \$102.59 a barrel. Prices rebounded Monday following strong holiday sales in the U.S., where shoppers spent nearly \$1 billion more on Black Friday than they did a year ago. The robust weekend sales are a promising sign that consumers are opening their wallets a little wider.

#### STOCK PORTFOLIO



#### LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
11,523.00	1,192.55	2,527.34
291.23	33.88	85.83
2.59%	2.92%	3.52%

#### EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms	Australian Dollar	1.0054	Indian Rupee	51.9550	Singapore Dollar	1.2986
	British Pound	0.6446	Indonesian Rupiah	9,150.00	South Korean Won	1,146.35
	Canadian Dollar	1.0327	Japanese Yen	78.0355	Swiss Franc	0.9206
	Chinese Yuan	6.3874	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1800	Taiwan Dollar	30.3760
	Euro	0.7490	New Zealand Dollar	1.3221	Thailand Baht	31.3250



# Nation

## Woman alleges long affair with Cain

WASHINGTON (AP)—In an explosive allegation, a Georgia woman said Monday she and Republican presidential hopeful Herman Cain had a 13-year extramarital affair that lasted nearly until the former businessman announced his candidacy for the White House several months ago.

"Here we go again. I didn't do anything wrong," Cain said in a pre-emptive denial that lumped a detailed claim of a consensual affair in with earlier allegations of sexual harassment.

But the woman, Ginger White, said in an interview with Fox 5 Atlanta that over the years, Cain bought her airplane tickets so she could join him in cities as far-flung as Palm Springs, Calif., and Atlanta.

"It was fun," the 46-year-old White said. "It was something that took me away from my sort of humdrum life at the time. And it was exciting."

Although Cain flatly denied the affair, his lawyer issued a public statement that included no such denial and suggested that the media—and the public—had no business snooping into the details of consensual conduct between adults.

After the initial report and Cain's denial, White told The Associated Press that Cain was not being truthful when he said there had been no affair.

"That would be false," White said. "What I said in the interview was true."

Cain's candidacy was soaring in the polls until he was hit less



Ginger White poses for a photo near Dunwoody, Ga. on Monday, Nov. 28, 2011.

than a month ago with accusations that he sexually harassed several women and groped one while he was a high-ranking official at the National Restaurant Association. He has since fallen back in the public opinion surveys, and been eclipsed by former House Speaker Newt Gingrich in the race to emerge as the principal conservative alternative to Mitt Romney.

At her apartment in Dunwoody, Ga., White declined to elaborate on her statements during a brief interview with the AP. "I can't make any comment on this," she said. "We're trying

to be slightly sensitive."

In its report, the television station said White had Cain's name in her cell phone contacts, and when its reporter sent a text message to the number, he called right back.

"He told us he knew 'Ginger White' but said these are more false allegations," the station reported. Cain said that White had his number because he was trying to help her financially.

In a written statement released immediately after the story aired, Cain's campaign said detractors were trying to "derail the Cain Train

with more accusations of past events that never happened."

Later, at a fundraiser in the Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C., Cain avoided reporters' questions.

In his initial denial, televised on CNN, Cain vowed to remain in the presidential race, as long as he has the support of his wife, with whom he said he had discussed the most recent allegation.

In her interview, White said she decided to come forward after seeing Cain attack his other accusers in an appearance on television.

"It bothered me that they were being demonized, sort of, and being treated as if they were automatically lying, and the burden of proof was on them," she said. "I felt bad for them."

White told the Atlanta TV station she expects to be scrutinized by Cain and the media.

Georgia court records show a series of judgments against White for not paying rent in Atlanta area apartments, including one filed about two weeks ago.

In the interview, she said she first met Cain in the late 1990s in Louisville, Ky., when he was president of the National Restaurant Association. They had drinks and he invited her to his hotel room, she recalled.

She quoted Cain as telling her, "You're beautiful to me and I would love for us to continue this friendship," then produced his personal calendar and invited her to meet him in Palm Springs.

## Funeral held for NJ tot found in car seat in creek

ASBURY PARK, N.J. (AP)—

A 2-year-old girl whose smile was so widely known among congregants that they dubbed her "the church baby" was laid to rest Monday, a week after she was tossed into a creek, still strapped into her car seat.

A nationwide manhunt was under way for her father, 27-year-old Arthur Morgan III, who was added this weekend as a featured fugitive on "America's Most Wanted" website. He is charged with murdering her last week by leaving her in a park creek.

Three people carried Tierra Morgan-Glover's tiny coffin from the Cathedral International of Asbury Park, while a minister followed with a large stuffed teddy bear.

During a videotaped eulogy, Bishop Donald Hilliard Jr. tried to comfort mourners.

"As she was placed into that creek, an angel caught her," Hilliard said. "She did not suffer at all."

Family members didn't speak during the service, and they declined to talk with reporters gathered outside the

church.

The girl's mother, Imani Benton, was helped into the church, supported on either side by relatives. She clutched a bouquet of purple and white roses, which were later placed on the child's 3-foot-long white casket. Tierra was wearing a white dress and had several gold bracelets on her wrist.

She never returned home from a court-approved visit with her father on Nov. 21. She was found the next day in her car seat, which was partially submerged in a creek in a park in Wall Township, about 20 miles north of her Lakehurst home. Her cause of death was listed as homicidal violence.

Authorities say the FBI and the U.S. Marshals Service are among several agencies searching for Tierra's father. They believe Morgan fled the state and may have headed out West after Tierra was killed.

"He remains a fugitive from justice, and we are still looking for him," said Christopher Gramiccioni, a spokesman for the Monmouth County prosecutor's office.



This photo provided by the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office shows Tierra Morgan of Lakehurst NJ, who was found dead in her car seat, partially submerged in a stream in Monmouth County's Shark River Park, which encompasses Neptune, Wall and Tinton Falls, N.J.

## LA protesters defy eviction efforts, go to court

LOS ANGELES (AP)—For now, Wall Street protesters camped out on the Los Angeles City Hall lawn still have their tent city after defying a deadline to pack up and clear out. "Still occupied," read the sign of a protester up in a tree.

Hours after emerging from a possible confrontation with police largely unscathed on Monday, demonstrators turned to the federal courts to keep officers away.

They are arguing that the City Council had passed a resolution in support of Occupy Los Angeles and that the city's mayor and police did not have the authority to evict them.

The chances that protesters

will get an injunction appear slim, constitutional experts say.

Until there is a decision, the tent city's inhabitants are left to wonder if and when police will push them out—and if there will be the kind of violence that has engulfed evictions in other cities when they do.

City officials say they will only move in on the camp when conditions are safest not just for protesters and officers but also the roughly 100 homeless people who had joined the encampment.

"There is no concrete deadline," LAPD Chief Charlie Beck said after hundreds of officers withdrew without moving in on the nearly 2-month-old camp.

The effort should come "with

as little drama as possible," Beck told reporters.

Police and protesters have clashed elsewhere in recent weeks, most notably in Oakland, Calif., as officers cleared away camps that officials say have grown more dangerous for public health and safety.

Nine people were arrested in Maine on Monday after protesters at an encampment took down their tents and packed their camping gear after being told to get a permit or move their shelters.

Some of the encampments had been in use almost since the movement against economic disparity and perceived corporate greed began with Occupy

Wall Street in Manhattan two months ago.

With each passing week, it seems a city moves in to close a camp. Like Los Angeles, Philadelphia officials imposed their own deadline for protesters to move to make way for a construction project.

On Monday, however, the camp was still standing.

In Los Angeles, protesters had prepared for police action since city leaders announced last week that the camp would be cleared. Campers had packed up about half of the nearly 500 tents.

Some protesters carried gas masks and one had even fashioned one out of duct tape and a plastic bottle.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Police: Officers shoot woman stabbing her child

ATLANTA (AP)—Police officers shot and killed a woman in an Atlanta home when she didn't comply with orders to stop stabbing her young daughter, who also died, authorities said Monday. Police and fire rescue personnel were called to the home Monday afternoon

and were told an 8-year-old boy had been assaulted by his mother and thrown out a window, said an Atlanta Police spokesman, Maj. Keith Meadows. Meadows said witnesses told officers the mother was alone inside the home with her young daughter. He said officers entered the house and found the mother sitting in a chair, stabbing the child.

#### Ohio county takes 200-pound 8-year-old from mother

CLEVELAND (AP)—The case of an 8-year-old third-grader weighing more than 200 pounds has renewed a debate on whether parents should lose custody if a child is severely obese. Roughly 2 million U.S. children are extremely obese—weighing significantly more than what's

considered healthy. A Cleveland Heights boy was taken from his family and was placed in foster care in October after county case workers said his mother wasn't doing enough to control his weight. The boy, at his weight, is considered at risk for developing such diseases as diabetes and high blood pressure. Government growth charts say most boys his age weigh about

60 pounds.

#### Banned players settle with gay softball group

SEATTLE (AP)—A gay softball organization has agreed to pay an undisclosed sum to three players who were disqualified from its 2008 Gay Softball World Series because of their perceived homosexuality. And as part of the settle-

ment announced Monday, their team will be awarded the second-place trophy it was denied at the time. The men—Stephen Apilado, Laron Charles and John Russ—filed the federal lawsuit against the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance last year, claiming they had been discriminated against because they were bisexual, not gay.



# Asia

## Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan fight opium smuggling

### Afghanistan's heroin pipeline

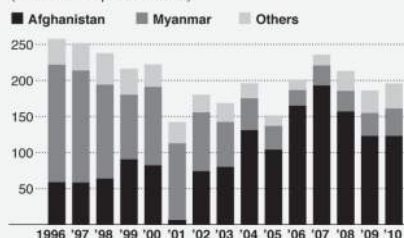
Amid 10 years of war, Afghanistan has become the world's primary supplier of opium poppy, the plant used to make heroin. The nation's leading cash crop is responsible for billions of dollars in societal costs there and elsewhere, affecting areas such as health care and law enforcement. No country understands this more than Russia, home to one of the world's largest heroin addict populations and a partner, with the U.S., in stemming the flow of heroin.

#### The supply

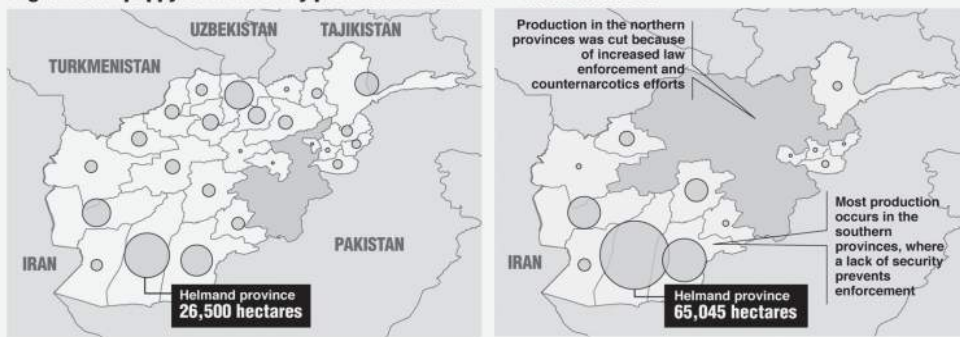
Providing nearly 90 percent of the world's poppy crop, Afghanistan is by far the largest source of opium and heroin; an overall rise in poppy cultivation since the 1990s can be attributed in some part to the U.S.-led invasion of the country in 2001 and the removal of the Taliban regime, which, in 2000, placed a ban on growing the plants; although cultivation levels nationwide are nearly the same as in 2005, a look at regional production reveals a slight geographic shift from north to south

#### Cultivation of opium poppy

Scale in thousands of hectares (one hectare equals 2.5 acres)



#### Afghanistan poppy cultivation by province in 2005 ... and in 2010



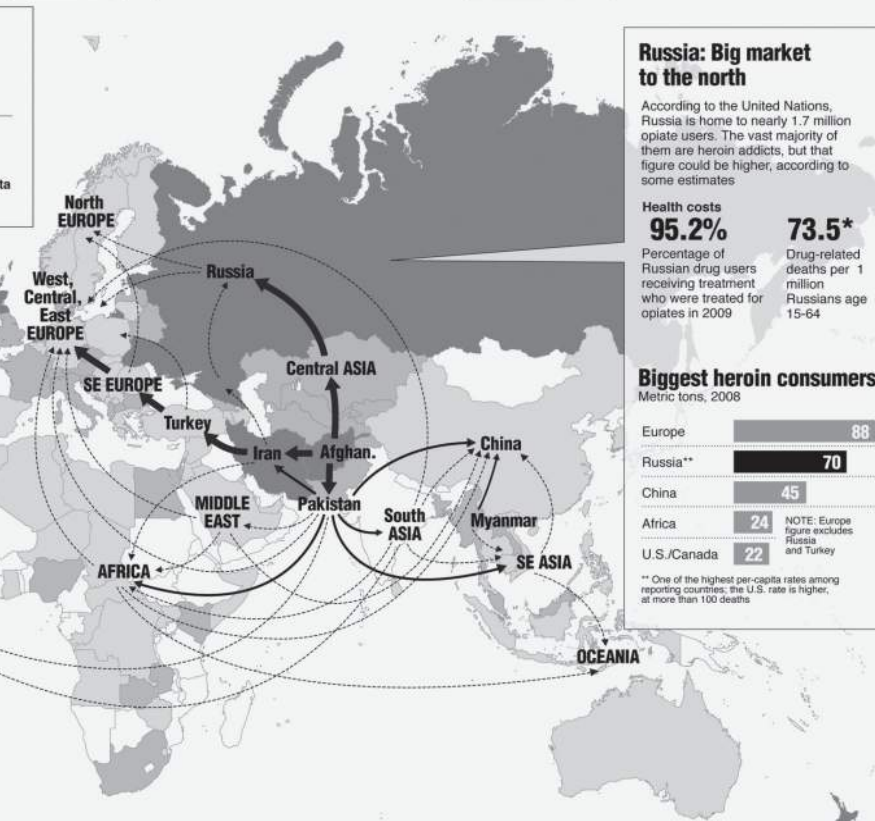
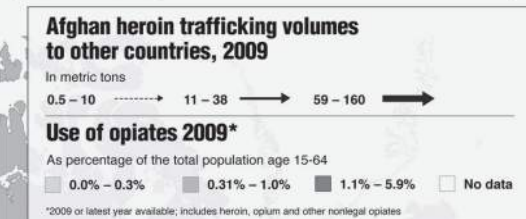
#### World heroin production, 2009

In tons. The primary end product of poppy production is heroin, of which Afghanistan is by far the world's leading provider.



#### The demand

Heroin and opium depart Afghanistan for their destined markets through three major gateways. From these areas, the drugs are smuggled to countries around the world via land and, increasingly, by plane and ship; along the way, the drugs pass through some of the world's highest per capita opiate-consuming nations.



**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan on Monday agreed to bolster regional cooperation to combat drug smuggling at a time when the cultivation of illicit opium poppy is increasing.

Afghanistan provides about 90 percent of the world's opium, the raw ingredient used to make heroin, and the U.N. and Afghan

government have long tried to wean the country off the lucrative crop. Money from the sale of opium is also used to fuel the insurgency, helping to buy weapons and equipment for the Taliban.

The largest areas of opium poppy cultivation are in the violent south of the country, where it can be hard to make money on legal crops and where criminal

networks exist to buy and sell the poppy crop.

"Despite a decade of initiatives by the Afghans and international community, opium production is increasing," said Yuri Fedotov, executive director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. "This situation can't continue."

Most of the opium from Af-

ghanistan is shipped through Iran and Pakistan, and the three countries have for the past four years been involved in a U.N.-sponsored initiative to set up joint planning cells in each country to coordinate their efforts. They pledged to bolster joint operations targeting smugglers and the networks they use to get the drug to the international marketplace.

## NATO raid in Pakistan undercuts rapprochement

**ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)**—NATO airstrikes that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers came just as the difficult relationship between the U.S. and Pakistani militaries was showing signs of improvement.

Only hours earlier, U.S. Marine Gen. John Allen, the coalition's top commander in Afghanistan, and Pakistan's army Chief Gen.

Ashfaq Pervez Kayani concluded a meeting that sought to find common ground, a senior U.S. official told The Associated Press.

The official said the two men discussed areas of cooperation and "basically what we could do for each other."

Now, Kayani is under renewed pressure from his rank and file, intelligence sharing has stopped

and Pakistan has withdrawn its offer to nudge the Afghan Taliban to the negotiation table.

On its website, the U.S. Embassy warned of possible retaliation against Americans and said some U.S. government personnel outside Islamabad were being recalled to the capital as a precaution.

The White House said Mon-

day that President Barack Obama considers the incident a tragedy and that the administration is determined to look into the circumstances of the airstrikes.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said the president extends sympathy to the families of the dead soldiers and to the people of Pakistan. Carney said: "We take it very seriously."

"Iran is a transit route and the production of drugs in Afghanistan is on the increase," said Iranian Interior Minister Mostafa Mohammad-Najar, who heads the country's counter-narcotics department. "The reason is high demand."

Ministers in charge of counter-narcotics for Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran met in Kabul on Monday at a U.N. organized gathering.

The U.N. has said that insecurity and rising opium prices have driven Afghan farmers to increase cultivation of the illicit opium poppy by 7 percent in 2011, despite a major push by the Afghan government and international allies. Production in Afghanistan had dropped significantly in 2010 because of a plant disease that killed off much of the crop.

Revenue from the drug has helped fund insurgents, and

the number of people invested in the underground opium economy has made it difficult for the Afghan government to establish its presence in opium-heavy regions.

Other countries in the region have also expressed worries about increasing production. The Russian government recently said about 2 million of its citizens are addicted to opium and heroin—most of which comes from Afghanistan. It has repeatedly called on NATO forces to do more to stop Afghan production.

A report last month showed that opium cultivation is spreading to new parts Afghanistan, a troubling trend as international troops are trying to stabilize the country so that they can hand over security responsibilities to the government by the end of 2014.

## China clinic infects kids with hepatitis

**BEIJING (AP)**—Dirty needles at a private clinic have been blamed for an outbreak of hepatitis C among kids in central China, underscoring the challenges of policing healthcare as clinics mushroom to meet growing demand.

State media reported Tuesday that reuse of needles at a private clinic in Henan province's Maqiao township spread hepatitis C to at least 13 people, including many children.

In the 1990s, Henan province was rocked by unsanitary blood plasma-buying schemes and tainted blood transfusions that allowed HIV to gain a foothold. Operators often used dirty needles, and people selling plasma—the liquid in blood—received replenishment from a pooled blood supply.

The Global Times newspaper said that health officials

in Henan's neighboring province of Anhui reported that as many as 56 people may have been infected with hepatitis C at the clinic.

The Chinese-language People's Daily quoted Gao Pei, vice director of the Center for Disease Control in Anhui's Guoyang county, as saying an initial investigation found that doctors at the Miaoqian Clinic in Henan reused needles when giving shots to patients.

The clinic in Henan is close to the border with Anhui, and all the victims so far have been from Anhui, it said.

The People's Daily said investigators were surveying 16 local villages to determine whether more people were infected. Patients were being treated at the Guoyang People's Hospital, it said.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### HK grants NZ 'accidental millionaire' extradition

**HONG KONG (AP)**—Hong Kong may soon extradite a New Zealand gas station owner suspected of withdrawing millions of dollars and going on the run after a bank mistakenly gave him a huge line of credit. Hong Kong judiciary officials said Monday that a New Zealand application for the extradition of Hui "Leo" Gao was approved by a judge Oct. 27. They gave no more details, but Hong Kong extradition cases also typically need to be referred to China's central government in Beijing and then approved by the territory's leader. Gao, who was arrested in Hong Kong in September, is wanted in New Zealand along with his former partner Kara Hurring on theft and money laundering charges in a case dubbed "the accidental millionaires."

#### China limits ads in TV dramas in a bid for viewers

**BEIJING (AP)**—China's government is prohibiting television stations from placing advertisements in the middle of TV dramas in a move meant to attract viewers and boost program quality. The ban, which was published Monday and takes effect January 1, says no ads may appear in any drama series, whose episodes typically run 45 minutes. The order is the latest in a series since the ruling Communist Party last month endorsed a program to raise the entertainment and ideological value of cultural offerings to better hold the attention of Chinese increasingly turning to the Internet for alternate viewpoints.



## World

## Egyptians wait in long lines to elect a parliament

CAIRO (AP)—They waited in long lines for hours to vote, despite a new wave of unrest, fears about a sharply divided society and uncertainty over the nation's future.

For the millions of Egyptians who cast ballots Monday, the first parliamentary elections since they ousted Hosni Mubarak were a turning point in history—if for no other reason than they were finally getting a chance to be heard after decades of rigged voting.

The outcome will indicate whether one of America's most important Middle East allies will remain secular or move down a more Islamic path, as have other countries swept up in the Arab Spring.

"I have hope this time," said Amal Fathy, a 50-year-old government employee who wears the Islamic veil, as she patiently waited to vote. "I may not live long enough to see change, but my grandchildren will."

**ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (AP)—Egypt's first parliamentary elections since the fall of Hosni Mubarak brought the political debut of a potentially powerful new player on the scene, the ultraconservative Islamist movement known as the Salafis.**

At several voting stations in this Mediterranean coastal city Monday, Salafis packed the lines as early as 7 a.m., an hour before the polls opened, clearly distinguishable by the long, moustache-less beards of the men and the blanketing robes and veils of the women leaving nothing of their bodies visible but their eyes.

Their presence in the lines only grew throughout the day, as women in veils and gloves passed out campaign fliers for the Nour Party, the main Salafist entry in the race.

Since the uprising that forced out Mubarak nearly 10 months ago, Egyptians had looked forward to this day as a celebration of freedom after years of stifling dictatorship. Instead, there has been deep disappointment with the military rulers who replaced the old regime and a new wave of protests and clashes that began 10 days before the vote.

Adding to the disarray, the multiple stage election process, which will stretch over months, is extremely complicated. Some of the key political players complained they did not have enough time or the right conditions to organize for the vote.

If there was little jubilation, there was hope—and even de-



Egyptian men line up to vote in the country's parliamentary election at a polling center in the Shubra neighborhood of Cairo, Egypt, Monday, Nov. 28, 2011.

fiance—with many determined to either push the military from power or vote against the Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamist groups who are expected to dominate the balloting.

"This was simply overwhelming. My heart was beating so fast," Sanaa el-Hawary, a 38-year-old mother of one said after she cast her vote in Cairo. "This is my life, it's my baby's life. It's my country and this is the only hope we have now."

Female voters appeared to

outnumber the men by far, shattering widespread notions in a society whose women are mostly dismissed or taken lightly.

Women waiting for five hours at one polling center chanted: "We will not give up, we will not give up."

In Cairo's crowded Shoubra district, 34-year-old Toka Youssef explained why she was voting for the first time in her life.

"Before, there were no real elections. It was all theater. Now

I'm optimistic in the future. These are the first steps toward democracy," she said. "It's a bit confused and chaotic because we've never seen this many people vote. No one cared this much before."

Ever since an 18-day uprising toppled Mubarak's regime and brought the military to power, Egypt has gone through violence, splits in society, a worsening economy and a surge in street crime. Still, people were eager to cast a free vote, even though much is unclear about what will happen next, whatever the outcome.

Many liberals, leftists, Christians and pious Muslims who oppose mixing religion and politics went to the polls to try to reduce the scope of the Muslim Brotherhood's electoral gains.

Also weighing heavily on voters' minds was whether this election will set Egypt on a path of democracy under the rule of the military. Protests this month have demanded that the generals step down immediately because of fears they are trying to cling to power and not bring real reform.

The parliament that emerges may have little relevance because the military is sharply limiting its powers, and it may only serve for several months. However, the vote will give Egyptians and the world an accurate reading of the strength of the political forces at work in the Arab world's most populous nation.

A reliable political map of the nation would also have an impact beyond Egypt's borders, serving as a guide to whether the close U.S. ally will continue to be the main source of moderation in the region and assume

the mantle of a key advocate of Middle East peace.

The election is the fruit of the Arab Spring revolts that have swept the region in the past year, toppling several authoritarian regimes. In Tunisia and Morocco, Islamic parties have come out winners in recent balloting, but if the much larger Egypt does the same, it could have an even greater impact.

Some voters brought their children along, saying they wanted them to learn how to exercise their rights in what promises to be the fairest and cleanest election in Egypt in living memory.

The biggest complaint Monday was the long wait, with polling stations opening late or running out of ballots. There also was campaigning outside polling centers in violation of the law.

"If you have waited for 30 years, can't you wait now for another hour?" an army officer yelled at hundreds of restless women at one Cairo polling station.

Supporters of the Freedom and Justice party, the Brotherhood's political arm, were seen with laptop computers helping voters with information on where they should cast their ballots but writing the information on large cards with the party logo on one side and the name and photos of its candidates on the other. Party supporters also appeared to be allowed to maintain security at some places or help the elderly vote.

"I never voted because I was never sure it was for real. This time, I hope it is, but I am not positive," said Shahira Ahmed, 45, waiting with her husband and daughter with about 500 other people.

## UN: Syrian forces killed, tortured 256 children

BEIRUT (AP)—A U.N. investigation concluded Monday that Syrian forces committed crimes against humanity by killing and torturing hundreds of children, including a 2-year-old girl reportedly shot to death so she wouldn't grow up to be a demonstrator.

The inquiry added to mounting international pressure on President Bashar Assad, a day after the Arab League approved sweeping sanctions to push his embattled regime to end the violence. Syria's foreign minister called the Arab move "a declaration of economic war" and warned of retaliation.

The report by a U.N. Human Rights Council panel found that at least 256 children were killed by government forces between mid-March and early November, some of them tortured to death.

"Torture was applied equally to adults and children," said the assessment, released in Geneva.

"Numerous testimonies indicated that boys were subjected to sexual torture in places of detention in front of adult men."

The U.N. defines a child as anyone under the age of 18. The report was compiled by a panel of independent experts who were not allowed into Syria. However, the commission interviewed 223 victims and witnesses, including defectors from Syria's military and security forces.

The panel said government forces were given "shoot to kill" orders to crush demonstrations. Some troops "shot indiscriminately at unarmed protesters," while snipers targeted others in the upper body or head, it said.

It quoted one former soldier who said he decided to defect after witnessing an officer shoot a 2-year-old girl in Latakia, then claim he killed her so she wouldn't grow up to be a demonstrator.

The list of alleged crimes committed by Syrian forces "include murder, torture, rape and other forms of sexual violence," said the panel's chairman, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, a Brazilian professor. "We have a very solid body of evidence."

At least 3,500 people have been killed since March in Syria, according to the U.N.—the bloodiest regime response against the Arab Spring protests sweeping the Middle East. Deaths in Egypt, Tunisia and Yemen have numbered in the hundreds; while Libya's toll is unknown and likely higher, the conflict there differs from Syria's because it descended into outright civil war between two armed sides.

The U.N. investigation is the latest in a growing wave of international measures pressuring Damascus to end its crackdown, and comes on the heels of sweeping sanctions approved

Sunday by the Arab League.

Syrian officials did not comment directly on the U.N. findings. However, the regime reacted sharply to the Arab sanctions, betraying a deep concern over the economic impact and warning that Syria could strike back.

Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem called the Arab League action "a declaration of economic war" and said Syria had withdrawn 95 percent of its assets in Arab countries.

Economy Minister Mohammed Nidal al-Shaar said "sources of foreign currency would be affected" by the sanctions, reflecting concerns that Arab investment in Syria will fall off and transfers from Syrians living in other Arab countries will drop.

Al-Moallem said Syria had means to retaliate.

"Sanctions are a two-way street," he warned in a televised news conference.

## WORLD BRIEFS

## Top Colombian drug trafficker captured

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—A top Colombian drug trafficker reputedly responsible for shipping tons of cocaine to the United States through Central America and Mexico has been captured in Venezuela, officials said Monday. The U.S. had offered a \$5 million reward for information leading to the arrest of Maximiliano Bonilla Orozco, also known as "Valenciano," who was also on Colombia's most-wanted list. Colombian authorities told The Associated Press that Bonilla was captured Sunday. The information was later confirmed by Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, who was in Venezuela meeting with President Hugo Chavez.

## Violence, late ballots may mar critical Congo vote

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)—Voting materials arrived late or sometimes not at all in precincts throughout the country Monday, but Congo's elections went ahead, raising doubts about the legitimacy of a poll that already has seen at least nine people killed and could drag sub-Saharan Africa's largest nation back into conflict. Country experts and opposition leaders had urged the government to delay the vote due to massive logistical problems. Some districts of Congo, which has suffered decades of dictatorship and two civil wars, are so remote that ballot boxes had to be transported across muddy trails on the heads of porters, and by dugout canoe across churning rivers.

## Libyan clerics back disarmament of ex-rebels

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Dozens of Libyan religious leaders on Monday urged authorities to disarm former rebels and form a national army, backing the transitional government's struggle to exert control over the militias that overthrew dictator Moammar Gadhafi. The fighters are widely admired for their role in bringing down the Gadhafi regime, but the clerics' statement reflected concern over the militias' refusal to submit to the central authority. Dozens of militias have held on to arsenals of heavy weapons and sometimes clash among themselves. "We advise speeding up the process of establishing a national army and the collection of arms," said a statement from the 250 imams and other clerics gathered for a conference in Tripoli, the first of its kind after the fall of the Gadhafi regime. It was organized by Libya's Ministry of Islamic Affairs.



## Focus

## Care and atonement: His search for redemption

By KURT STREETER  
LOS ANGELES TIMES*First of a 2-part series*

LOS ANGELES—The two men walked slowly through the steel-framed door, the older one leading the younger. The door slammed shut behind them.

“Don’t worry,” said the older man, John Paul Madrona. “It’s true people die here, but we help them.”

“What’s it going to be like?” Freddy Garcia asked.

They passed a row of rooms filled with men in their 50s, 60s and 70s. Most had committed horrendous crimes and would spend their final days in this small wing of the California Medical Facility, a high-security prison at the base of rolling hills near Sacramento. The facility housed roughly 3,000 criminals: some in good health, some ill, some dying.

In the hospice, the oldest inside a California prison and one of the nation’s first, some of the dying men looked robust, as if defying their illnesses. Some were hunched and gaunt. One stood in a corner, a mound of flesh jutting from his neck. Inscribed on the fingers of his right hand was LOVE, on the other, HATE. He glared as Garcia walked across the worn linoleum.

“This is going to be the best place for you now,” said Madrona, a healthy inmate who had worked at the hospice for two years.

“Six months,” Garcia replied. That was how much time a doctor had given him. He grimaced. He was now the hospice’s youngest patient, only 24 and with colon cancer.

The tattoos on his head glistened with sweat, but he puffed out his chest, trying to act tough. To Madrona, 35, he seemed like a mixed-up kid—the kind Madrona had been years before.

“We will take care of you,” Madrona said. “No matter what, I will be here for you.”

Maybe by helping Garcia, he thought, he could make amends for the terrible thing he had done as a young man. Maybe he could find redemption.

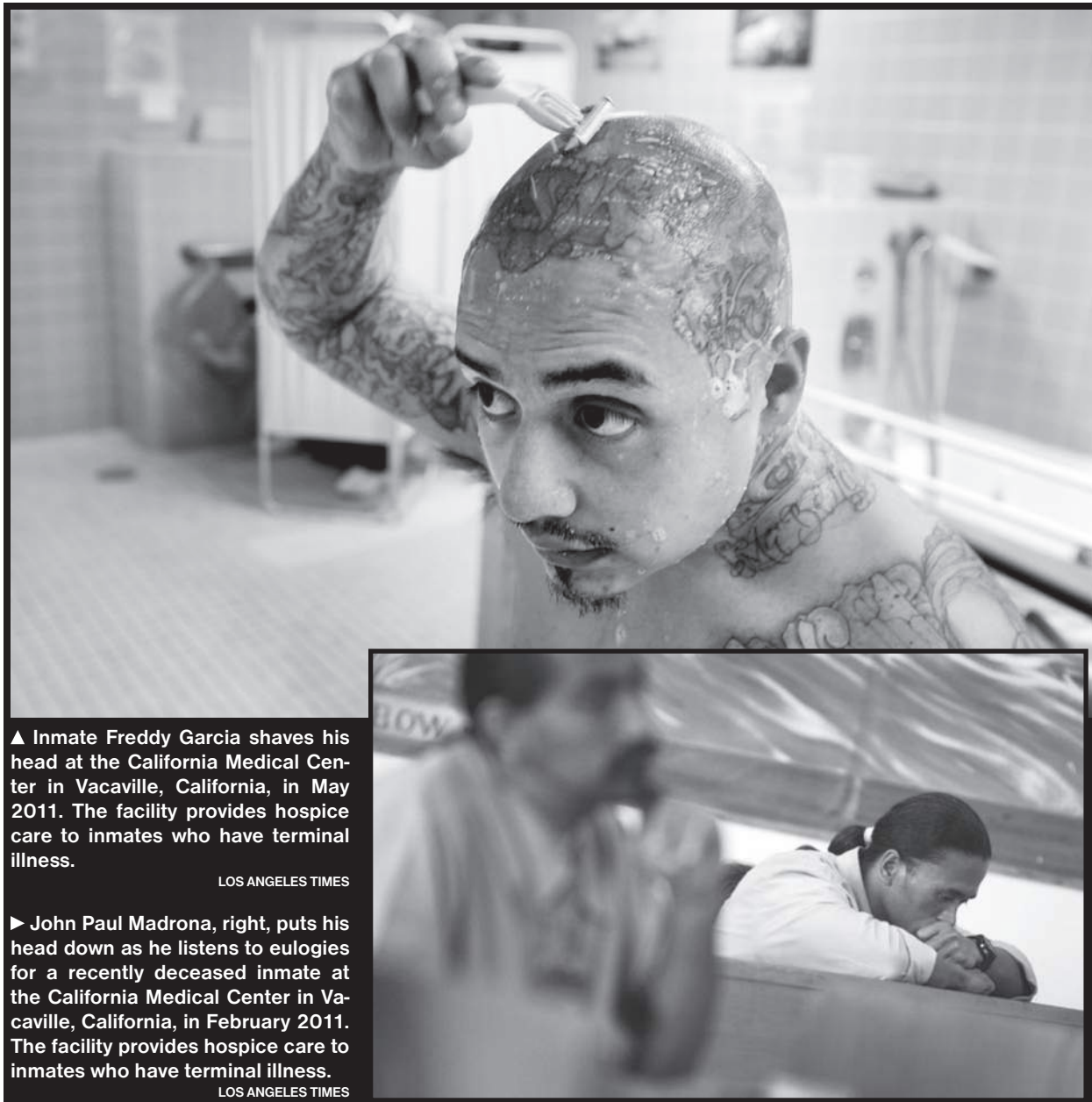
■ ■ ■ ■

John Paul Aranas Madrona was born in the Philippines in 1975, the third son of a prison guard who named him after the pope and prayed that he would grow up to become a priest.

A sweet-natured child, he was raised largely by his maternal grandmother, Lourdes. The young boy vowed to always be at her side, to care for her in her final years. But his mother and father dreamed of America, and as his teens approached he was on a plane to Los Angeles with his parents, sister and older brothers.

The family settled into a cramped apartment in Redondo Beach, and John Paul, dark-skinned and shy, became a target for roving gangs. They would corner him and beat him. One day on the playground, he fought back; before long, he had gained a reputation for his fists. He joined the Scout Royal Brotherhood, a Filipino gang based in Carson. He convinced himself that if a bullet flew in a gang fight he would take it, just to earn his stripes.

On a November night in 1993,



▲ Inmate Freddy Garcia shaves his head at the California Medical Center in Vacaville, California, in May 2011. The facility provides hospice care to inmates who have terminal illness.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

► John Paul Madrona, right, puts his head down as he listens to eulogies for a recently deceased inmate at the California Medical Center in Vacaville, California, in February 2011. The facility provides hospice care to inmates who have terminal illness.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Madrona and another gang member named Jeremiah DeGuzman went to an apartment in Gardena and banged on the door. Tracy Takahashi was inside. A 30-year-old environmental chemist, Takahashi had many friends who sometimes would stop by unannounced. He walked to the door, slid back a bolt lock and opened it.

Without pause, Madrona and DeGuzman raised handguns and fired rapidly. One bullet plowed into Takahashi’s forehead. When Madrona was caught two weeks later, he realized his mistake. He had gone to shoot a rival gang member. But Takahashi wasn’t in a gang, not even

me. ... I don’t believe in macho folly retaliation. I would ask them to think about what they’ve done. ... When you pull the trigger, it shatters the bonds that cement the lives of dozens of people together. ... You have to realize that you took from this earth someone who was loved dearly. Think about that for a long time. And turn your life around, whether you’re in jail or not. No excuses.

The judge sentenced both men to 30 years to life. Madrona entered prison, a 19-year-old trying to mask insecurity with arrogance. But as he grew older, he began to sit alone in his cell and re-

In 2008, he was transferred to the California Medical Facility penitentiary in Vacaville, 30 miles southwest of Sacramento. He heard about the hospice.

Opened in 1991 in response to the AIDS epidemic, it was cramped and spartan: 17 beds in seven patient rooms surrounding a narrow nursing station. Ill inmates from all over the state could petition to be transferred there if prison doctors gave them a prognosis of six months to live.

A Presbyterian minister inspired by Mother Teresa and Gandhi was in charge. Chaplain Keith Knauf believed

times should I forgive?’ ‘Seventy times seven’ is what he said. And when you realize Jesus died alongside criminals, to me it makes sense to be here.”

Roughly a dozen inmates from outside the hospice worked for Knauf. Most were convicted murderers. The chaplain called them his Pastoral Care Workers. After a series of interviews and background checks—to screen for troublemakers, drug users or sexual predators—he chose them, trained them, mentored them and leaned on them to give the hospice heart.

They massaged aching hands, scrubbed urine-soaked floors, walked sickly men to showers, read to them from magazines and letters, Bibles, Torahs and Qurans. Trust, uncommon among prisoners, was built: Whites helped blacks, Latinos helped Asians, Bloods gangbangers helped Crips.

When an inmate’s last days arrived, at least one care worker sat vigil day and night. No prisoner, they vowed, would die alone.

Madrona hoped to join these men. Becoming a care worker might help him prove to himself that he could treat death with respect, just as he’d promised to do for Lourdes. Maybe it could be his path toward redemption.

When he applied, Knauf told him there would be peaceful, poignant, even spiritual moments. There would also be gruesome sights, nauseating smells and the curdling shrieks of frightened men.

Each month, on average, five inmates died.

The job, Knauf said, would burrow inside him. Could Madrona handle it?

The chaplain looked across his desk and saw a quiet, starkly handsome man. Madrona had thick wrists, dark eyes and long black hair pulled neatly into a ponytail. He looked both physically strong and deeply sad. “No matter what I say, you won’t know my heart until you see the work I do,” Madrona said, his Filipino accent thick. “Please. ... I won’t fail you.”

The chaplain took a chance.

■ ■ ■ ■

By now it was March 2011, and Madrona was good at his job. “There’s not a guy among our dying prisoners who does not find John Paul to be a favorite,” said Knauf, who’d come to lean on Madrona. “Despite what he’s done, the man we see today personifies kindness.”

Madrona had experienced a lot, but he’d never seen a patient like this one.

Garcia had been a member of the Keystone 213s, a Carson gang. The two men had a lot in common. They’d roamed the same unforgiving streets.

As much as they shared, Madrona quickly realized the new patient was full of contradictions.

Garcia had a sharp wit and could be surprisingly sensitive and self-aware. But there were flashes of wariness and temper.

He looked relatively fit and could walk unaided. But his colon cancer was spreading. A procedure called a colostomy had created a hole in his gut and a bag was attached to it. Every few hours he drained the bag into a toilet.

Then there was Garcia’s face: soft, open, with glimmers of innocence. His

See CARE on Next Page

*‘But Jesus was asked: ‘How many times should I forgive?’ ‘Seventy times seven’ is what he said. And when you realize Jesus died alongside criminals, to me it makes sense to be here.’*

close. Madrona and DeGuzman had gone to the wrong door.

A year later, after a jury found the two men guilty of murder, Madrona sat in a Torrance courtroom as the judge read a letter from Takahashi’s brother, Dean, then a business reporter at the Los Angeles Times:

I’ve often wondered what I would say if I had a chance to confront (Tracy’s) killers as they pleaded for leniency. They have no reason to fear

consider his life. He replayed his crime, over and over. He thought of Dean Takahashi’s letter and imagined Tracy Takahashi living a good and fruitful life if not for him.

One day in the mid-1990s, he and Lourdes spoke by phone. “When are you coming home?” she asked. He’d never told her he was in prison. Weeks later, Lourdes died. His vow to care for her would never be fulfilled. He knew then that he had to change. But how?

that working to ease death could teach compassion. He decreed that no sick convict be judged: not the rapists, not the kidnappers, not the serial killers. Dying in prison—dying, as many did, with overwhelming guilt or bitterness—was judgment enough.

“These men are not pleasant to look at,” the chaplain explained matter-of-factly. “How could they do what they did?”

“But Jesus was asked: ‘How many



# Campus Life

## GCA congratulates November forensic winners!

**PRIMARY GRADES FORENSIC CONFERENCE**  
(Kindergarten to 5TH GRADE)  
PGFC Coordinator: Esther Manzano

**K-2 DIVISION**  
Dramatic Interpretation A  
Juruel Magtalas, 2nd Place  
Kenyon Boyer, 4th Place

Dramatic Interpretation B  
Julianna Magtalas, 1st Place

Impromptu Speaking A  
Matthew Gabriel Ernest, 1st Place  
Brandie Matsumoto, 3rd Place  
Kei Lizama, 4th Place  
Timothy Neal, 5th Place

Impromptu Speaking B  
Luis Jerome Gaspar, 1st Place  
Makena Carrasco, 2nd Place  
Alana Carrasco, 3rd Place  
Vidal Joseph Camacho, 4th Place  
Clerisse Dacumos, 5th Place

Readers Forum Masters A  
Matthew Gabriel Ernest, 2nd Place

Readers Forum Masters C  
Clerisse Dacumos, 5th Place

**3-5 DIVISION**  
Choral Speaking A  
Anna Nunez, 5th Place  
Miriella Dilse, 5th Place  
Heather Pangilinan, 5th Place  
Joshua Pajarillaga, 5th Place  
Jessa May Santos, 5th Place

Duo Interpretation A  
Anna Nunez, 5th Place

Some are dreamers, some are talented. Grace Christian Academy students are both. The GCA family (administration, faculty and staff, parents, and student body) congratulates their November forensic winners in all levels: Primary Grades Forensic Conference (PGFC) for Kinder to 2nd grade and 3rd -5th grades), National Junior Forensic League (NJFL) for 6th-8th grades, and National Forensic League (NFL) for 9th-12th grades. These students have made their school proud. Well done and congratulations on their success.



Grace Christian Academy's Primary Grades Forensic Conference winners have their picture taken inside the GCA campus.

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Heather Pangilinan, 5th Place   | Tae Yong Kim, 3rd Place<br>Jabez Victoria, 3rd Place | Humorous Interpretation A<br>Robert Hanrey Schorr, 4th Place |
| Duo Interpretation B<br>Riley Anne Buenaventura, 2nd Place<br>Esther Kim, 2nd Place | Dramatic Interpretation A<br>Esther Kim, 4th Place   | Humorous Interpretation B<br>Jessa May Santos, 5th Place     |

### CARE

From Page 17

scalp was covered with menacing tattoos: a prowling jaguar and a skull, the horror icon Freddy Krueger, an intimidating Aztec god, a demon, an angry snake.

Madrona knew they were signs of his ties to Mexican gangs. Though hardly imposing at 5 feet 2, Garcia was known on the streets. He'd already been in state prison once, for burglarizing a house when he was 18. His cancer was discovered in 2009, shortly after he began a second term, nine years for stealing an Oakland Raiders flask from a JC Penney while carrying a loaded gun.

Was Garcia a hard-luck thief—or something worse? He spoke of doing all he could to not hurt anyone on the streets. But he also talked about shootings for which he was never caught.

"I don't think I killed anybody, but I can't be sure," Garcia said, eyes fixed downward. "If I did, it was an accident. I didn't mean to, I swear."

At first, Madrona simply listened. He heard Garcia speak of a future, heard him boast about how he was going to marry a girl he'd met in a visiting room at his old prison. They were going to live peacefully in a suburb.

Marina Luevano was round-eyed, smooth-skinned and as pretty as he'd described. She visited the hospice often. One afternoon, in a patio near a guard tower, she asked her dying boyfriend to marry her. "He

might not have much time left," she explained later. "But what time he has, even if people think I'm a fool, I want to be his wife. Some people might look at him and think he's terrible. They just don't see the inside."

There had never been a wedding in the hospice, but Garcia was hardly deterred. When the chaplain agreed to work out details and officiate, he took it as a sign.

"My 'happily ever after' story is going to come true," Garcia said. But when Madrona looked at his tattooed scalp and his sandals covered with scrawled gang symbols, he worried. Garcia hadn't let go of his old ways.

One night, Garcia made an offer: "John Paul, for all that you are doing for me, I want to thank you. I can get you a cellphone." Madrona knew this was a gesture to show that Garcia still had power. Cellphones are prized by prisoners and considered contraband by guards. Madrona no longer played those games.

"No," he said.

Then Garcia said he knew a lonely girl who would write to Madrona. "She can be your girlfriend," he said.

That answer came quickly too: "No, Freddy, I'm fine. Don't you see? I don't need anything material." Garcia stood back, shocked, before saying he understood.

Weeks passed. Garcia threw up blood. He complained his arms felt numb. His chest felt tight. Knowing it might be the last good thing in Garcia's life,

Madrona worked to get him to focus on the wedding.

Garcia asked him to be his best man.

"I'm sorry, but I can't," Madrona said, explaining he had to work that day. It was a lie. Prison officials were allowing one guest from the hospice to attend, and Peter McDonald wanted to go. McDonald, 60, was dying of cancer after spending nearly half his life behind bars for murder. He'd dubbed Garcia "the kid" and watched over him. Knowing this, Madrona backed out.

Finally it was May 6, wedding day. Down a low hallway full of convicts, the chaplain pushed "the kid" in a wheelchair to a well-guarded room lined with vending machines.

Luevano, dressed in a purple blouse, arrived with her family. Garcia's family, including Breanna, the winsome 3-year-old daughter he barely knew, drove in from Carson.

The ceremony was simple and quick: the young couple standing skittishly in front of the small audience, an inmate playing low chords on a beat-up guitar, the chaplain speaking of transformation and strength and patience, making no mention of sickness or death.

Luevano's shoulders quivered. Garcia looked ashen. He wrung his hands as he struggled to repeat the chaplain's words: "I will trust you, loving you faithfully forever and ever. ... I, Alfredo, take you, Marina, to be my wife."

When it ended, the newlyweds

returned to the hospice. They held hands and gently kissed and then she left. Garcia had put up a brave front, but bolts of pain were searing his abdomen. Barely able to hold himself up, he fell onto his bed and covered himself with a thin blanket.

He wanted to see Madrona, but at that hour, Madrona was in his bunk.

Madrona now had hopes for Garcia that had little to do with marriage or miracles. He hoped Garcia would grow his hair to cover the tattoos on his scalp. He hoped Garcia would erase the scrawled symbols on his flip-flops. He hoped Garcia would believe that anything was possible but also accept the likelihood of death.

To find redemption, Madrona knew that he too had to show a sign that he had repented—that he had turned away from what he had been. The work in the hospice was not enough.

Perhaps a letter might be.

It would be a letter of remorse and apology to Tracy Takahashi's brother and parents. If only he could find the right words.

*Los Angeles Times staff writer Kurt Streeter spent days inside the California Medical Facility hospice, interacting with the inmates, staff and guards. He regularly spoke with Chaplain Keith Knauf, interviewed John Paul Madrona and Freddy Garcia numerous times, reviewed their court files and interviewed their lawyers, relatives and Tracy Takahashi's brother Dean.*

Readers Forum Masters A  
Riley Anne Buenaventura, 4th Place  
Readers Forum Masters C  
Matt Jason Moran, 3rd Place

Readers Forum A  
Miriella Dilse, 4th Place  
Jewel Cubangbang, 5th Place

Readers Forum C  
Lanze Jabez Victoria, 2nd Place  
Martin Pangilinan, 3rd Place  
Ja Min Elliot, 4th Place

Impromptu Speaking A  
Tae Yong Kim, 1st Place  
Marcelo Masilungan Jr., 2nd Place  
Jim Michael Ham, 3rd Place

Impromptu Speaking B  
Martin Pangilinan, 3rd Place  
Matt Jason Moran, 4th Place  
Joshua Pajarillaga, 5th Place

**NATIONAL JUNIOR FORENSIC LEAGUE**  
(6TH to 8TH GRADE)  
NJFL Coordinator: Ami Joy Danganan

Poetry Reading Masters A  
Rebekah Kim, 1st Place  
Jasmine Gortayo, 3rd Place

Poetry Reading Masters B  
Yu Jin Lee, 1st Place

Prose Reading Masters A  
Yu Jin Lee, 5th Place

Prose Reading Masters B  
Dianne Arnold, 2nd Place  
Cyril Salcedo, 3rd Place  
Prose Reading A

Asako Camacho, 1st Place  
Story Telling  
Yu Jin Lee, 1st Place  
Rebekah Kim, 2nd Place

Dramatic Interpretation A  
Cyril Salcedo, 5th Place

Duo Interpretation A  
Danica Canedo, 2nd Place  
Macy Sarmiento, 2nd Place

Impromptu Speech A  
Jasmine Gortayo, 5th Place

Impromptu Speech B  
Dianne Arnold, 4th Place

**NATIONAL FORENSIC LEAGUE**  
(9TH to 12TH GRADE)  
NFL Coordinator: Josh Zwicker

Dramatic Interpretation A  
Dong Ha Lee, 1st Place

Dramatic Interpretation B  
Trixie Achas, 3rd Place

Poetry Reading Masters B  
Dong Ha Lee, 1st Place

Prose Reading Masters A  
Trixie Achas, 4th Place

Story Telling  
Dong Ha Lee, 1st Place

U.S. Extemporaneous Speech  
Yong Koo Kim, 2nd Place

Commentary  
Yong Koo Kim, 3rd Place

SDA SCHOOL HONORS

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

Ava Deleon Guerrero  
Manuel Pangelinan  
Parker Callier  
Yurihana Sasamoto  
Shaquille Calub  
Cory Lee  
Christina Seklor  
Seong Eon Heo  
Harvey Zhang  
Quincey Chinen  
Jon Earnest Lacorte  
Alex Lin  
Danielle Zayco

HONOR ROLL

Shane Conlon  
  
Jin A Choi  
Sion Kapileo  
Sephson Lakjon  
Sydney Lim  
Ivan Sitchon  
Amari Glover  
Donaven Deleon Guerrero  
Langting Lao  
Michelle Palacios  
Mariol Lopez

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Kagman High School PTSA meeting

This is to inform all parents/guardians that the Parent, Teacher, Students Association meeting for school year 2011-2012 is set for Thursday, Dec. 1, in the school's cafeteria, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. Upcoming agenda: BEAUTIFY Kagman High! Parents and student cleanup day set for Dec. 3. For more information, call KHS main office at 237-3840 or e-mail: kagmanhs@gmail.com. (PR)

Immunization Clinic open for student immunizations

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Immunization Clinic at the Commonwealth Health Center on Lower Navy Hill will open five days a week, Monday to Friday, from 7:30am to 4:30pm, including lunch hours, to accommodate students in need of their required immunizations for school entrance. Furthermore, parents of children who are not enrolled in school yet are also urged to make sure their children are up to date with all their immunizations and to visit the Immunization Clinic or any private clinic, including Tinian Health Center and Rota Health Center if their children are not fully immunized with their required shots. No appointment is necessary at the CHC Immunization Clinic and all vaccines are provided at no cost. For more information, contact the Immunization Clinic at 236-8745 or 236-8708/80/81. (PR)



# Life & Style

## Freida Pinto explains her nude scene in 'Immortals'

By BARRY KOLTNOW  
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

What is a sweet, wholesome Indian actress like Freida Pinto doing naked in a 3-D action movie like "Immortals?"

It is a burning question that we had to ask when we met the 27-year-old Pinto, best known for her role in the Oscar-winning "Slumdog Millionaire." The answer might shock you.

The actress, who was born in Bombay (now Mumbai), most recently was seen in the hit movie "Rise of the Planet of the Apes," and has an impressive series of films coming out, including "Black Gold" with Antonio Banderas and "Trishna," director Michael Winterbottom's take on Thomas Hardy's "Tess of the d'Urbervilles."

Those films seem more appropriate for the delicately featured former model than "Immortals," a special-effects-laden period movie. She plays an exotic oracle that figures prominently in an epic battle between a brutal king (Mickey Rourke) and young champion of the people (played by Henry Cavill, who is currently filming the next Superman movie).

Pinto explains how she ended up in a movie like this, instructs us not to jump to conclusions about her steamy love scene and describes the moment she realized she was famous.

**Q. Was the nude scene in this movie a career strategy meant to remind the movie industry that you are an adult woman and not the young girl from "Slumdog Millionaire?"**

**A.** Hmmm. You are going to be very disappointed when I tell you this, but that was a body double.

**Q. That wasn't you at all?**

**A.** The close-ups of the face were me, of course, but the whole stripping-down scene was a body double.

**Q. I am shocked.**

**A.** I wasn't even asked to do the scene. The director said there would be a body double and that was it. He pretty much knew what he wanted, and he felt like he didn't need me for the scene.

**Q. Were you insulted that he didn't ask?**

**A.** People seem to have no issue saying they had stunt doubles for particular scenes. They even brag about having stunt doubles, and he (the director) said there shouldn't be an issue over it. His feeling was that there was no actual acting in that part of the scene, so why should I be there?

**Q. Well, I can assure you that your body double got a great reaction at last night's screening.**

**A.** (laughing) I'm sure she will be really happy to hear that.

**Q. Nude scene aside, where does "Immortals" fit into your career plan?**

**A.** I think it's a new step for me. I've discovered a new genre that I wouldn't ordinarily be involved in if I hadn't made a conscious effort. It was my first big-budget film because I did this before "Rise of the Planet of the Apes."

**Q. How different was it to be in a big-budget film as compared to a smaller-budget independent film?**

**A.** It's not really any different when it comes to dedication and commitment that you need to have toward your character. What is different is the scale. And a big-budget film requires patience because your involvement is not required all the time. They have specific things they are trying to accomplish, and they will take as much time as it takes to get that, so you are left to wait around. So many more people have a say in a big-budget film, and that also slows everything down.

**Q. And how does that differ from a smaller film?**

**A.** You're pretty much employed every day on the set. You get to flex your acting muscles a little more. In a big-budget movie, you feel like you're there just to help to sell a dream.

**Q. You were a model before you were cast in "Slumdog Millionaire." The legend is that you had never taken an acting class before that film, so I was wondering if you were a model who did not have ambitions to become an actress?**

**A.** I was thinking about becoming an actress, but I didn't have any idea of how to go about it. The reason I never went to acting class is that I never found anyone who I felt could teach me something different. I would love to take a good acting class now. I always seem to do things backward. I did a great movie, and then went to acting class.

**Q. So it's true that you did sign up for an acting class after "Slumdog Millionaire" was a success?**

**A.** Yes, it's true (laughs). Everybody said I was nuts, but I was curious to know what I didn't already know.

**Q. Was modeling a means to an end?**

**A.** Modeling was a means to get pocket money.

**Q. But not as a stepping stone to acting?**

**A.** I hoped it would be a ticket to acting. Like someone would see me in an ad and want to put me in a movie. But it doesn't always work that way. There is so much competition in the modeling world that you need to be in the right place at the right time to stand out.

**Q. How did you get cast in "Slumdog Millionaire?"**

**A.** I was in competition with loads of girls from all over



Pinto

India and America and England. I had to bring my "A" game to every audition.

**Q. Did your modeling experience help you on those auditions?**

**A.** Yes. I was entirely comfortable in front of the cameras, but I knew absolutely nothing about acting. When someone yelled "speed," I had no idea what they were talking about. I was faced with a lot of new terms.

**Q. Once you got the role, what did you think it meant to your career?**

**A.** It meant that I could finally say I had done my first movie role, and that I was proud of it. The sheer fact that (director) Danny Boyle was attached to it gave a sense of prestige to the project. Even if I had two lines in the film, it would have been a wonderful first film to have on my résumé. Whatever happens in the rest of my career, I know I did a first movie that I will never regret.

**Q. What was the defining moment when you knew that the movie was going to change your life?**

**A.** Those moments are usually horrifying. You think that it's all downhill from here. It's a very scary thought.

**Q. Why is that?**

**A.** There are so many stories of people of my ethnicity who have come ahead of me and tried and not made it. It's scary to think of that, but I guess the timing was better for me. That defining moment came for me before the Oscars ceremony when I got a call to audition for a role in Julian Schnabel's film "Miral," and I was given the part. And then, three days later, I was given the part in the Woody Allen film "You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger."

**Q. Describe the first time you realized that you were recognizable to the public?**

**A.** The first time it happened was hilarious. I had just wrapped up the first session of the press junket and I was headed back to India to see my family. I was very emotional, and I was sitting in a terminal at LAX with big sunglasses on and, all of a sudden, all these paparazzi started running toward me. It was my first ever attack, and it came from everywhere. They just started clicking away. I realized right then that it doesn't matter what is happening in your personal life. When you're out in public, just smile.

## Called to Eternal Life Pedro aka: Pete or Dung Hocog Indalecio October 5, 1961 - November 24, 2011



Our Heavenly Father welcomed Pedro to his eternal life on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 2011 at the age of 50 at Commonwealth Health Center. Mass of intention and nightly rosary is being offered at 6:00 p.m. at San Antonio and Saint Jude Church and rosary at the family's residence in San Antonio at 7:00 p.m.

At the eternal gates of our Heavenly Father, Pedro now joins his **Parents and In-law** David Aldan Indalecio and Rosa Hocog Indalecio and Eugenia Pangelinan Castro, his **Grandparents** Antonio Palacios Indalecio, Trinida Aldan Indalecio, Pedro Maratita Hocog and Escolastica Songao Hocog and **Uncles and Auntie** Jose Aldan Indalecio, Ignacio Songao Hocog, Domingo Quintanilla, Lucio Masga Manglona, and Ana Songao Hocog.

Pedro's compassion and his wonderful sense of humor are being lovingly celebrated by his **wife** Maria Pangelinan Castro, **children** Roque Castro Indalecio, Millianne Rose and Yvanna Raquel.

Pedro is additionally survived by his sister and In-Law +**Martina Hocog Bio** (Raymond) and children, **Carmen Indalecio Ayuyu** (Ricky) and children, **Maria Indalecio Banca** (Mario) and children, Brothers and In-law **William Hocog Indalecio** (Josephine) and children, **Anthony Hocog Indalecio** (Wilacy) and children.

He is additionally survived by his In-Laws: **Rita Castro Echalico** (Archie) & Children **Tina Maratita** & Children **Alexander Maratita** & Children  
Numerous **Uncles, Aunties, Cousins, Nephews** and **Nieces**.

Last respects for Pedro will be held at San Antonio Church on Friday, December 2, 2011 from 8:00-11:00 a.m. followed by mass of Christian burial at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase ginen as Maria yan I famagon yan todos I familia siha'.



# Singer Charlotte Church: Press destroyed my career

**L**ONDON (AP)—She was just 13 when Rupert Murdoch asked her to sing at his wedding.

Charlotte Church was given a choice: a 100,000 pound fee, or a chance to generate good will with the media magnate by performing for free. She wanted the cash, but her record company and manager said no, it was better to make friends with Murdoch, head of a global news and entertainment empire.

"Despite my teenage business head screaming 'Think how many tamagotchies you could buy!' I was pressured into taking the latter option," she told Britain's press ethics committee. "This strategy failed ... for me."

Church, 25, told Britain's media ethics inquiry Monday that the Murdoch press, and other British tabloids, had ruthlessly tormented her since she was a child singing sensation, blowing her credibility "to bits" and badly damaging her career.

She said press intrusion had a devastating impact on her family life and particularly on her mother. Church said her mother had tried to kill herself in part

because she knew a newspaper was planning to expose her husband's extramarital affair.

The former teenage singing sensation told the inquiry in calm, measured tones how cameramen tried to take photos up her skirt and down her blouse and published "intimate" details about her sex life when she was just 17.

"I couldn't get my head around that," said Church, 25, who blamed tabloid phone hacking for much of her lost privacy.

"I've been made a caricature for so long, and this person portrayed in the tabloids really isn't me," she said. "It's not the person I am, and it's had a massive impact on my career. As an artist, I find it hard to be taken seriously because my credibility has been blown to bits."

Church also described how one newspaper had a countdown before her 16th birthday to mark the moment when she would reach the age of consent and be old enough to legally have sex.

"It just felt horrible," she said.

Church, a pop and opera singer with a spectacular voice, was the latest prominent person to tell the committee how Britain's unscrupulous press has invaded their privacy and



AP  
Hillary Rodham Clinton, left, then the first lady, talks with 13-year-old Welsh soprano Charlotte Church at the taping of a television special in Washington in this Sunday, June 13, 1999 file photo.

damaged their lives. She said she suspected her closest family members of leaking secrets

when in fact the media were getting details about her life from illegal phone hacking.

Prime Minister David Cameron set up the inquiry in response to the scandal that began with illegal eavesdropping by the News of the World tabloid.

Murdoch closed the newspaper in July after evidence emerged that it had illegally accessed the mobile phone voice mails of celebrities, politicians and even crime victims in its search for scoops.

More than a dozen News of the World journalists and editors have been arrested, and two top London police officers, along with Cameron's media adviser and several senior Murdoch executives, have resigned.

The inquiry, led by Judge Brian Leveson, plans to issue a report next year and could recommend major changes to Britain's system of media self regulation. In its first two weeks, the committee has heard a stunning litany of press abuse.

Church told the inquiry how impressed she had been with Murdoch's power when she went to sing at his wedding in the United States—and how her effort to gain his favor was a dismal failure. "He flew us on his private jet to New York, which was amazing, then we went onto his boat, which had a grand piano on it, which I was amazed by, and I sang at the cer-

emony," she said.

Before Church testified, a man who had been arrested on murder charges and then cleared told the committee that tabloids had destroyed his reputation with false front-page stories.

Christopher Jefferies said the negative coverage of him was so widespread that some people still assume he is a "weird character" who should be avoided, even though he was cleared of wrongdoing.

He was arrested last year by police investigating the murder of his tenant, Joanna Yeates. Another man has since been convicted of the crime.

Jefferies said he felt he could not go out in public because of the smears.

Broadcast journalist Anne Diamond told the committee that the Murdoch press had waged a vendetta against her—even sending a reporter impersonating a doctor to the hospital when she was giving birth.

Last week, Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling, Hugh Grant and Sienna Miller all testified about the devastating impact that unscrupulous British media have had on their lives, along with the parents of murdered 13-year-old Milly Dowler and missing 3-year-old Madeleine McCann.

## MINISTRY OF GOSSIP

### Anne Hathaway engaged to actor beau Adam Shulman

Anne Hathaway has a much more exciting event than "The Dark Knight Rises" premiere on her 2012 calendar. The Ministry has confirmed that the actress is engaged.

Since Adam Shulman, Hathaway's actor boyfriend of three years, popped the question, Hathaway has been rocking an engagement ring around New York, a piece whose design we can confirm was a collaboration between Shulman and Kwiat Heritage jewels.

"It took us a pretty long time to get together," Anne told Vogue last year regarding Shulman, alluding to her trust issues with men after her relationship with Italian boyfriend Raffaello Follieri fell apart in public when he was exposed as a con man.

"When you finally realize that you can just be your own scared...self and that you can still be sexy without trying to be, it's such a great relief. When uncondensed you is enough," she said of her relationship with Shulman.

Sounds like it was worth the wait. While no date has been set for the pair to wed, we take great joy in knowing that her stylist Rachel Zoe might be selecting the all-important wedding dress—and Anne also knows a thing or two about dresses, as she proved when co-hosting the Oscars last February. (Matt Donnelly and Christie D'Zurilla)



AP  
In this Aug. 23, 2011 file photo, U.S. actress Anne Hathaway and

### Christian Bale says 'Dark Knight Rises' is the end of his Batman era

Christian Bale may be retiring his Batmobile: The actor says he's done with "that Batman era."

*The Dark Knight Rises* will be "the end of that Batman era"—the era belonging to him and director Christopher Nolan—Bale said in an interview published Friday by the Philippines' largest daily newspaper.

"I wrapped a few days ago so that will be the last time I'm taking that cowl off," he told the *Philippines Daily Inquirer*, referring to the hood that protects Bruce Wayne's identity when he's Batman. "I believe that the whole production wrapped

yesterday, so it's all done." He said playing the role has been "enjoyable."

During a press junket for his upcoming film *The Flowers of War*, Bale touched on the complexities of his take on Bruce Wayne/Batman, as reported by aceshowbiz.com: "Bruce Wayne is absolutely sincere as Bruce Wayne, and as Batman utterly sincere. But Bruce Wayne, the playboy, is a pure facade, it's a lie he has, somehow, to control one side of your soul that's not really under control. In fact, only Alfred knows who he is."

"It's time for Bruce Wayne to face the pain, that has always stirred his life."

Incidentally, Bale said, costar Anne Hathaway might have

had the least enjoyable time during filming. "There are a number of people who feel that the Catwoman role has been defined previously. So, I always saw Anne's role as being the toughest job of any of us."

And that's without considering the skin-tight Catwoman costume.

Bale has been the face behind the Batman mask since 2005's *Batman Begins*, followed by *The Dark Knight* in 2008. *The Dark Knight Rises*, now in post-production, is slated for release next July. (Christie D'Zurilla)

### Hedy Lamarr: Inventor of more than the 1st theatrical-film orgasm

Hedy Lamarr, Old Hollywood sex symbol, had a brain. It's a fact that may be nearly as overlooked as the inventor's wartime creation: landmark technology that was a precursor to Bluetooth.

It's not surprising that she's known best for her sultry persona, given her film role that made everyone sit up and take notice. In 1933's *Ecstasy*, a Czech film, she raised eyebrows and drew condemnation around the globe when she appeared nude in one part of the film and simulated an orgasm in another.

Lamarr is seen going skinny-dipping and, still without a stitch on, chasing a runaway horse. The orgasm scene comes later, and, yes, she does smoke a cigarette afterward. *Ecstasy* is considered the first theatrically released movie to feature an ac-

tress simulating an orgasm on screen.

Take that, Meg Ryan.

Now, Richard Rhodes has revealed the nerdy side of this legendary beauty and superstar.

His new book, *Hedy's Folly: The Life and Breakthrough Inventions of Hedy Lamarr, the Most Beautiful Woman in the World*, tells about the invention and how her role in its creation was long ignored.

In a recent interview on NPR's "All Things Considered," Rhodes said Lamarr was the type of person who "was constantly looking at the world and wondering how can that be fixed, how can that be improved."

During an early, unhappy marriage to an Austrian arms dealer (!), Rhodes said, Lamarr would sit at dinner parties given by her husband for Nazi generals, listening to them talk about weapons. With her interest in science, he said, she listened closely to the weapons talk.

Lamarr later escaped that marriage—although not by dressing up as one of her maids and jumping out a window. That story was a fabrication by Lamarr, the author said. She did, however, book passage on a ship with Louis Mayer of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, and by the time the ship reached its destination, she had a seven-year, \$3,000-a-week contract with the film studio.

*Algiers* (1938), with Charles Boyer, followed soon after, and Lamarr became a huge star.

Lamarr's invention came about, Rhodes said, because "she was keenly aware of the coming war. She was glued to the newspaper, reading the stories. ... When German submarines began torpedoing passenger liners, she felt at that point, 'I've got to invent something that will put a stop to that.'"

Her idea involved making a radio signal "hop around from radio frequency to radio frequency," Rhodes said, to interfere with signal jamming. Thus, a torpedo could be radio guided with less fear of having the signal jammed.

She and a partner obtained a patent, then gave it free of charge to the U.S. Navy. Brilliant, yes?

The Navy "basically threw it into the file," Rhodes said. Later, however, the idea of frequency-hopping was resuscitated by the Navy, and "then the whole system spread like wildfire. The most well-known application today is Bluetooth."

So why isn't Hedy Lamarr the Inventor a famous name?

The patent had expired, Rhodes said, plus, during most of the device's life it was a military secret. By the time it came out, it had gone through many permutations with input from various sources.

"She was simply lost in the noise." (Amy Hubbard)

Source: Ministry of Gossip: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/gossip/>



# Doctor to be sentenced for Jackson's death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's doctor will face the singer's distraught family and ardent fans one more time when he returns to court for sentencing in the death of the superstar from an overdose of an operating-room anesthetic he was receiving to battle insomnia.

Dr. Conrad Murray's sentencing Tuesday for involuntary manslaughter is the final step in the criminal case launched within days of Jackson's unexpected death in June 2009.

Prosecutors want a judge to sentence the 58-year-old Murray to the maximum four-year prison term. Defense attorneys counter that Murray already faces a lifetime of shame and diminished opportunities and should receive probation.

How long Murray might remain behind bars depends on the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, which would base the decision on good behavior and other factors.

Even without overcrowd-

ing and a new state law that will send Murray to county jail rather than prison, a four-year sentence could be cut in half by good behavior.

It remained unclear Monday whether Jackson's family will speak during the sentencing hearing. His mother Katherine and several siblings routinely attended the six-week trial that ended with the conviction on Nov. 7.

Prosecutors portrayed Murray as an incompetent doctor who administered propofol—an extremely potent anesthetic normally used during surgery—in Jackson's bedroom without adequate safeguards and botched his care when things went wrong.

The prosecution is also seeking restitution for Jackson's three children and filed a statement from the singer's estate stating the cost of the singer's funeral was more than \$1.8 million.



Murray

The letter also notes that Jackson would have earned \$100 million if he had performed a planned series of comeback concerts in London.

The doctor's fate lies with Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor, who will determine the sentence and had harsh words for Murray on the day he was convicted.

"Dr. Murray's reckless conduct in this case poses a demonstrable risk to the safety of the public," Pastor said before the Houston-based cardiologist was led from the courtroom in handcuffs.

Pastor also could address Murray's decision to participate in a documentary that was filmed throughout the trial and aired days after Murray's conviction.

Murray states in the film that aired on MSNBC, under the title "Michael Jackson and the Doctor: A Fatal Friendship," that he doesn't feel guilty about the

singer's death because he doesn't think he did anything wrong.

Prosecutors cited Murray's comments in their filing last week urging the judge to impose the maximum sentence.

"Finally, the defendant consistently blames the victim for his own death," the prosecutors said, "even going so far as to characterize himself as being 'entrapped' by the victim and as someone who suffered a 'betrayal' at the hands of the victim."

Murray's attorneys are relying largely on statements from his former patients to portray Murray in a softer light and win a lighter sentence.

"There is no question that the death of his patient, Mr. Jackson, was unintentional and an enormous tragedy for everyone affected," defense attorneys wrote in their sentencing memo. "Dr. Murray has been described as a changed, grief-stricken man, who walks around under a pall of sadness since the loss of his patient, Mr. Jackson."

## Wife's affair with husband's son is bound to end badly

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** I married "Raymond" in 2004. I met his son, "Bill," a year before the wedding and have been in a relationship with him ever since. (He's married to one of my friends and has a child with her.)

Raymond supports me financially and provides all the necessities—house, car, food, clothes, etc.—without my having to work. But Bill supports me emotionally, and there's more of a "connection."

I have learned that marriages dissolve for one of two reasons: money or sex. The money is there, but Raymond and I haven't been romantic in more than a year.

Am I walking into a ring of fire by keeping the relationship with Bill? Ray says he loves me and cares about me, but only when I ask how he feels about me. With Bill, I don't have to ask—he says it.

IN A QUANDARY

**DEAR IN A QUANDARY:** May I mention a third reason that marriages break up? It's when one spouse discovers that the other has been cheating. If your marriage to Raymond, who has endowed you with all the worldly goods he can, is of any importance to you, tell him that although you're living in style, all of your needs are not being met. Give him a chance to fulfill the rest of them. It doesn't take a clairvoyant to predict that if you don't value what you've got, you will lose it.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** It has been a difficult year. The brother of one of my dear friends had a massive stroke and she is now his caretaker. Another friend's 15-year-old son recently committed suicide, and a third friend's 23-year-old daughter is in the late stages of MS. I also have several friends who are dealing with cancer.

I always feel lost about what to say or how to reach out and help. How do I respond in these situations?

HURTING FOR MY FRIENDS

**DEAR HURTING:** You don't have to say anything profound in order to be supportive. The way to respond is to do for them what you would hope someone would do for you in similar circumstances. Call your friends regularly and keep them informed about what's going on. Ask how they are doing. If they need to vent, listen. If you have spare time, offer to cook them a meal, do some laundry, or give them a few hours to run errands by keeping their sick relative company. I'm sure it will be appreciated.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a 20-year-old mother of a 1-year-old boy who means the world to me. I was raped two months ago and recently learned that I am pregnant. I am scared to death of telling my mother.

When my son was born, his father left for his tour of duty in Iraq and I moved in with her. She is 57 and has helped me out in every way she can since he was killed on his mission. I love my mother dearly and don't know what I would do without her, but I am at a loss about how to tell her about this pregnancy. Your advice would be appreciated.

SCARED TO DEATH

**DEAR SCARED TO DEATH:** Your mother should have been told about the rape when it happened. You should have also informed the police, and received counseling and emergency contraception and medication to prevent an STD. If you haven't seen an OB/GYN, schedule an appointment immediately to ensure that the baby you're carrying will be born healthy.

You also need to tell your mother before your pregnancy becomes obvious, so the two of you can decide whether you can afford to raise another child or if you should place the child for adoption. Please don't wait. The longer you do, the harder the discussion will be.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

## 'Lion King,' 'Spider-Man' score big at box office

NEW YORK (AP)—At least two Broadway shows are giving thanks this week for a record-breaking holiday at the box office.

The Broadway League said Monday that "The Lion King" and "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" each broke the \$2 million mark over their eight Thanksgiving week shows ending Sunday. Those are new records for both.

"The Lion King" earned \$2,079,616—a jump of \$547,000 over last week—while the once-mocked "Spider-Man" made \$2,070,195 over a week in which it celebrated ending its first year. Both shows were directed by Julie Taymor, though she is now suing the "Spider-Man" producers over payment.

The perennial No. 1 show, "Wicked," beat both shows with \$2,205,025, seeing a jump of \$669,537 over last week's take. That witchy show is no stranger to breaking the \$2 million mark.

Disney's "The Lion King" showed its staying power, reaching the highest single week gross in the show's 14-year run. The previous record was set in January when it grossed \$1,993,370.

Other shows that got a boost were "Mary Poppins" with \$1,236,000, a jump of more than \$557,000; "How to Succeed in Business" with \$1,272,000, a \$370,000 increase; and "War Horse" with \$1,036,155, a bump of \$61,500.

## Scorsese's 'Hugo' UK premiere gets royal audience

LONDON (AP)—Academy Award winner Martin Scorsese is in London's Leicester Square for the royal premiere of his first-ever 3D movie, "Hugo."

Based on Brian Selznick's best-seller, "The Invention of Hugo Cabret," the film stars Jude Law, Sir Ben Kingsley,

Chloe Moretz with Asa Butterfield as Hugo.

The fantasy film is about an orphan boy who lives in the wall of a train station in 1930s Paris. He is on a quest to unlock a secret left to him by his father.

Making it a royal premiere

Monday night are two specially invited guests, Prince Charles and his wife Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall.

"Hugo" is the 64th Royal Film Performance to take place in London.

"Hugo" opens in the U.K. on Friday.

## Swedish 'Dragon Tattoo' star's daughter in US film

NEW YORK (AP)—The star of Sweden's "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" movie says his daughter appears in the upcoming U.S. remake with the actor who takes on his role in the crime drama: Daniel Craig.

Michael Nyqvist and Craig both play investigative journalist Mikael Blomkvist in films based on the crime trilogy from Swedish author Stieg Larsson.

Sweden's "Millenium" television series, which includes adap-

tations of Larsson's other books in the series "The Girl Who Played with Fire" and "The Girl Who Kicked the Hornets' Nest," just won the 2011 International Emmy for best TV miniseries.

Swedish-born Nyqvist said he was curious to see the American version because he says David Fincher "is such a good director and Craig is a good actor," and because his 21-year-old daughter, Ellen, is an extra in the film "by coincidence."

## Tobey Maguire, others settle over poker winnings

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tobey Maguire has decided to fold 'em and settle a lawsuit over his winnings from a convicted con man during high-stakes Hollywood poker games.

The "Spider-Man" star agreed to pay \$80,000 to settle the lawsuit filed over more than \$311,000 he was paid by a convicted Ponzi scheme operator in Texas Hold 'Em matches that included celebrities, businessmen and others, court documents state.

If approved by a judge next month, Maguire will pay the money to a bankruptcy trustee who is trying to recoup money that former hedge fund operator Bradley Ruderman bilked from investors to finance his lavish lifestyle.

The money will be used to repay victims of the scheme, which Maguire and other players were unaware of.

Court records show that 14



AP

In this May 24, 2010 file photo, actor Tobey Maguire arrives to the Film Society of Lincoln Center's 37th Chaplin Award Gala honoring Michael Douglas in New York.

of the 22 people sued to recoup poker winnings have settled their cases. Howard Ehrenberg, the bankruptcy trustee who sued the group, said Monday the poker settlements total more than \$1.7 million.

Ehrenberg said Maguire's payout to resolve the case is in the same range as others who agreed to settlements.

"He did not end up with any better settlement than the others," Ehrenberg said.

Maguire's settlement states he "strongly disputes that he violated any laws, rules or regulations in regard to participating in the poker games" but was agreeing to the payment to avoid fighting the case, which would be costly.

The actor signed the settlement on Nov. 22 and it was filed a day later with a bankruptcy court handling the lawsuits.

The trustee alleged Maguire and others had no right to keep their winnings from the unlicensed poker games held at upscale hotels and private residences. Maguire and others have denied there was anything improper about the matches.

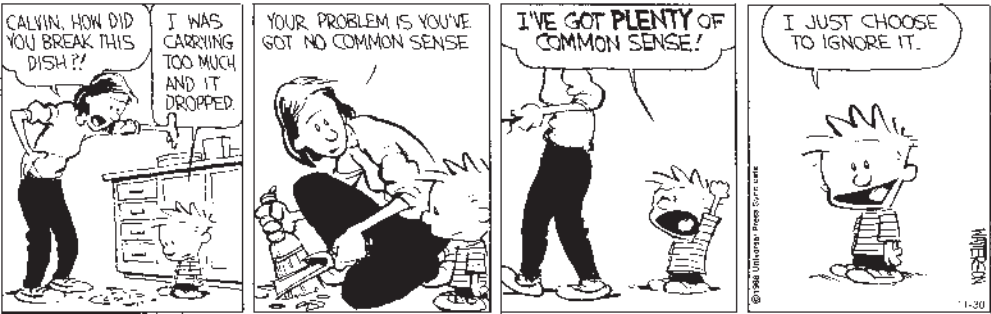


# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson **Garfield®**

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset **The Duplex**

By Glenn McCoy



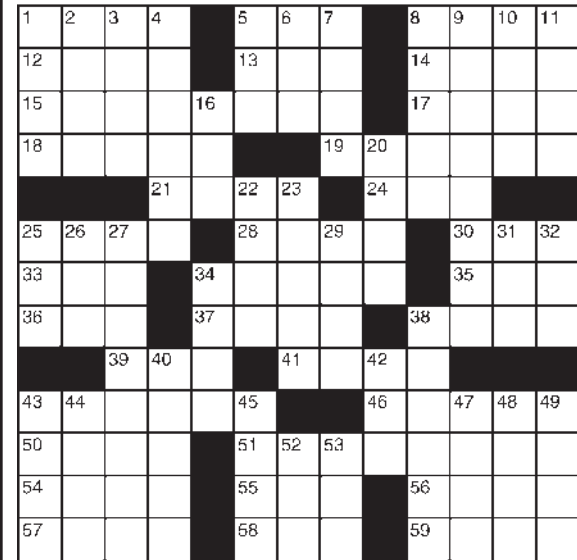
## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mosque
  - 5 Scale member
  - 8 Equipment
  - 12 Hardy cabbage
  - 13 Commotion
  - 14 World's fair
  - 15 Went boom
  - 17 Newspaper page
  - 18 Supermarket section
  - 19 Undergo without yielding
  - 21 Exam format
  - 24 Still, in verse
  - 25 Make tea
  - 28 Took to the skies
  - 30 Festive
  - 33 Actor Harrison
  - 34 Animal stomachs
  - 35 Away from WSW
- DOWN**
- 6 Pump up the volume
  - 7 Base runner's goal
  - 38 Tosses in
  - 39 Historic period
  - 41 Venomous vipers
  - 43 What to call an English nobleman
  - 46 Puppeteer Lewis
  - 50 Norway's capital
  - 51 Atoned for
  - 54 Coaster
  - 55 Central
  - 56 Fashion
  - 57 Danson and Nugent
  - 58 Eggs
  - 19 Heroic verse
  - 22 Frizzy coiffure
  - 23 Camel's cousin
  - 25 Bikini half
  - 26 Sleep phenom
  - 27 Kicked out of school
  - 29 Rams fans?
  - 31 Moreover
  - 32 "Certainly"
  - 34 Burn somewhat
  - 38 Fats Domino's "Ain't That —"
  - 40 Crucifixes
  - 42 Omega preceder
  - 43 Lion's share
  - 44 Capri, for one
  - 45 Show-room sample
  - 47 On
  - 48 Start over
  - 49 Mid-month date
  - 52 Louis —
  - 53 Black-Berry, for ex.

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 11-30



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Kaley Cuoco, 26; Elisha Cuthbert, 29; Ben Stiller, 46; Billy Idol, 56.

**Happy Birthday:** Learn and prepare and you will not be disappointed with the results you get. You must be purposeful and goal-driven, striving for greater understanding of your surroundings and how you can make improvements. Change is good, as long as it doesn't put you into debt. Diversify to get the most for the least. Your numbers are 4, 16, 18, 22, 35, 41, 46.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Don't take anything you have for granted. Problems at work will surface if you are a know-it-all. Listen and be attentive both at work and home and you will end up getting what you want. Arguments are for losers. ★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Someone will try to take advantage of you. Don't offer cash or your time to an organization claiming to help those in need. Work toward your own goals and help those you love. Charity begins at home. Love is on the rise. ★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Trust your instincts when it comes to partnerships, business deals and getting ahead professionally. There is a window of opportunity if you are imaginative in the way you present what you have to offer. ★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You'll find it difficult to make a decision based on what you know or hear from others. Until you have all the facts straight in your head, don't

make a move that could leave you in a precarious position. Don't take a risk. ★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Put your money into something that will help you save. Budget wisely now and you will look like a genius in months to come. You can have fun with friends and make new acquaintances without overspending or offering to pay for others. ★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Don't let anyone upset you. You need to have a clear view of what's expected of you at work in order to do your best. Ask questions and get involved in whatever will help you get ahead. Forget about petty arguments. ★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Put a little pizzazz into whatever you do. Get out of the house and socialize with people who have something to offer in return. Communication and mingling will lead to an opportunity you won't want to miss. ★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Get the information you need before making a move. Someone trying to sell you something will be intentionally misleading. You can control the situation if you are prepared. Have an expert on hand to check what's being said. ★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Good fortune is within reach. Someone from your past will help you get what you want now. Recognition will be yours if you sell yourself well and are passionate about what you do. ★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Keep things to yourself for now. The element of surprise will help you get ahead. Your timing must be impeccable and your insight on target in order to come out on top. There is money to be made if you are calculating. ★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You should be moving full speed ahead. Looking for work, a raise or a promotion should be your top priority. A past acquaintance will help you now. Contact people you have worked with or for. Ask, and you will receive. ★★

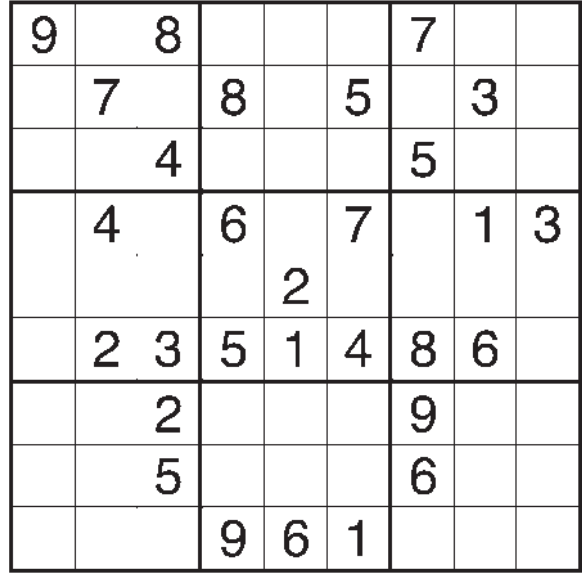
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Communication is deceiving. Read between the lines and make sure you understand what's being said before you commit to anything. You are better off doing your own thing rather than joining forces with someone else. ★★

**Birthday Baby:** You have great vision. You are innovative, imaginative and eager to experiment.

Eugenia's Web sites: [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations, [myspace.com/eugenialast](http://myspace.com/eugenialast) for Eugenia's blog, [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun

## SUDOKU

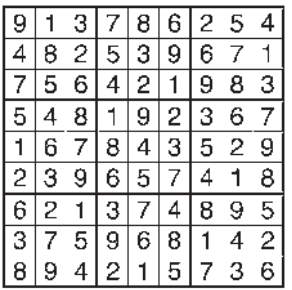
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★ ★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ALL ABOUT COACH Solution: 6 letters



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**Yesterday's Answer: Soul Surfer**  
Belt, Bonnie Cape, Boots, Cases, Chelsea, Chic, Clogs, Coat, Collection, Color, Cost, Factory, Fall, Flats, Fragrance, Glove, Handbags, Hats, Heels, Jewelry, Key, Krakoff, Kristin, Leather, Logo, Madison, Nylon, Optical, Pets, Pocket, Poppy, Real, Reed, Rings, Sandals, Satchels, Sateen, Scarf, Sets, Shoes, Signature, Silk, Sophistication, Styles, Swirl, Texture, Tops, Tote, Wallet



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This is to inform the general public that

**Mr. Raul (WENG) Pineda,**  
Is no longer employed by  
**Marianas Exchange, Inc.**  
/Auto parts,  
**Effective October 15, 2011.**

Any transaction or deals entered by him in our behalf on or after October 15, 2011, will be null and void.

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**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Open Date: November 30, 2011      Close Date: December 09, 2011  
Position: (1) Sales Clerk      Salary: \$5.05 per hour

**Job Qualification:** High School Graduate. Two Years Experience

For more information you may contact Mr. Juan I Tenorio, Manager for Human Resources Department at (670) 234-6495 ext. 5840/2. Employment application forms are available at Hafadai Beach Hotel, Human Resource Department.

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Job Vacancy Announcement

Job Vacancy No. 11-067      Opening Date: 11/28/11  
Closing Date: Until Filled

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**DUTIES:** Under the overall supervision of the Water Laboratory Manager or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows. Conducts either chemical or microbiological tests on samples to ensure compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency. Performs tests on samples submitted by customers. Prepares solutions and standards. Prepares and maintains mandatory records; performs statistical analysis; reviews and enters data; reports test results to Laboratory Manager and local and federal agencies. Responds to customer complaints to include verifying water quality and conducting field tests. Replenishes lab supply. Collects a variety of samples to include composite, wastewater treatment and receiving water samples. Participates in environmental awareness such as participating in conferences and giving presentations at schools. Calibrates laboratory equipment. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

**LOCATION:** WATER LABORATORY, SAIPAN  
**POSITIONS:** One (1).  
**SALARY:** \$27,826.00 - \$32,885.00 per annum; Unclassified; Ungraded.  
**CONTRACT:** Not Contracted.

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**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02-2011**

Opening date: November 16, 2011      Closing date: November 30, 2011

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancies:

(1) Procurement Officer (Saipan)      (1) Tariff Technician-I (Port of Saipan)  
(1) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee (Rota)      (1) Custodial/Maintenance-I (Rota)  
(1) Radio Operator/Weather Observer (Rota)  
(1) Radio Operator/Weather Observer (Tinian)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. For Rota vacancy, applications may be picked up at the CPA's Administration Office of the Rota International Airport; and for Tinian's vacancy, applications may be picked up at CPA's Administration Office of the Tinian International Airport; or it may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at [www.cpa.gov.mp](http://www.cpa.gov.mp). Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than **4:30 p.m., November 30, 2011.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing, or may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at [www.cpa.gov.mp](http://www.cpa.gov.mp). For more information, please contact Ms. Addy C. Manahane by email at [acmanahane@cpa.gov.mp](mailto:acmanahane@cpa.gov.mp) or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

**\*\*All ARFF/Ports Police Trainee applicants must undergo a physical fitness test.**

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/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO  
Executive Director

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# Brees and Saints blow out Giants, 49-24

**NEW ORLEANS** (AP)—Drew Brees and the surging New Orleans Saints made everything look easy against the slumping Giants.

Brees passed for 363 yards and four touchdowns and ran for another score as New Orleans rolled to a 49-24 victory Monday night, extending New York's losing skid to three games.

Tight end Jimmy Graham had five catches for 84 yards, including touchdowns of 5 and 29 yards. Brees' two other scoring strikes went to Lance Moore, who had five catches for 54 yards.

This was a game New York was desperate to win after losing its previous two to San Francisco and Philadelphia.

Instead, the Giants (6-5) dropped a game behind first-place Dallas in the NFC East and face the possibility of a four-game losing streak when they host the unbeaten Green Bay Packers next weekend.

The Saints (8-3), meanwhile, maintained a one-game lead over Atlanta in the NFC South.

They also padded their rushing stats with 205 yards on the ground, including touchdown runs of 12 yards by Pierre Thomas and 35 yards by rookie Mark Ingram.

Marques Colston had three catches for 78 yards, all on the Saints' 34-second, 88-yard touchdown drive late in the second quarter that gave New Or-



New Orleans Saints tight end Jimmy Graham celebrates after scoring a touchdown during the second quarter of an NFL football game against the New York Giants in New Orleans, Monday, Nov. 28, 2011.

leans a 21-3 halftime lead. Colston's longest reception went for 50 yards when he caught a pass along the left sideline, slipped a tackle and raced up field.

The Giants took a beating on the scoreboard and on the field. Defensive end Osi Umenyiora went out with a sprained ankle and receiver Hakeem Nicks was rocked by a vicious collision with Saints rookie safety Isa Abdul-Quddus.

Nicks stayed in the game despite bruised ribs.

The Giants did not get into the end zone until Brandon Jacobs steamrolled safety Roman Harper on an 8-yard scoring run that made it 21-10 in the third quarter, but the Saints went right back down the field and scored on Brees' 8-yard scramble.

After Giants running back Da'Rell Scott fumbled on his own 29, Brees connected with Graham, who rumbled down the left sideline and dove for the pylon for his second TD of the game, and his team-leading eighth receiving score of the season.

The Saints never trailed, striking first early in the second quarter on Brees' 4-yard touchdown pass to Moore, who snagged a quick throw on the right side and dove to stretch the ball across the goal line before he was tackled.

The 10-play, 80-yard scoring drive included a 23-yard pass to Graham and a 23-yard run by Darren Sproles, and it was the first of three touch-

down drives of more than 80 yards in the opening half.

Giants quarterback Eli Manning passed for 406 yards, but most of that came after the Saints had a big lead. He also was intercepted by linebacker Will Herring in the end zone on the team's first series.

The only scoring the Giants managed in the first half was Lawrence Tynes' 42-yard field goal. Tynes also attempted a 61-yarder, which fell short, at the end of the half.

The Giants, who have been struggling to run the ball all season and were without leading rusher Ahmad Bradshaw, gained only 73 yards on the ground.

Both teams missed scoring opportunities on their opening drives.

The Saints got close at the 18-yard line, but delay-of-game and offensive pass interference penalties moved them back before they attempted a fake field goal on fourth-and-11. Chase Daniel, the holder and backup quarterback, found Graham in the right flat, but Jason Pierre-Paul made an open-field tackle to stop Graham a yard short of a first down.

The Giants then marched to the Saints 18-yards line before Manning's pass intended for tight end Jake Ballard was intercepted by Herring.

Manning completed his first four passes for 64 yards, including a 26-yarder to Ramses Barden, before his interception.

## Packers chase perfection, Colts try to avoid it

By BARRY WILNER  
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

There is perfection—what the Green Bay Packers are chasing.

And then there is perfection—what the Indianapolis Colts are trying to avoid.

Neither team wants to broach the subject, although both are very aware it's out there.

"I think we're a long way from there," Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers said. "If we're fortunate enough to be still undefeated after 14 or 15 games, maybe we can start talking about what you were talking about."

What the rest of the nation is talking about: 16-0. And, in the Colts' case, 0-16.

"I think all the losses are tough. At this point, we're just trying find a way to get a win," Colts safety Antoine Bethea said. "We've got five games left now, so we got to keep rallying and stick together."

The Packers have been sticking it to just about everyone all season. They lead the NFL in points (382, 34.7 per game), and are near or at the lead in many other offensive categories. Rodgers is having the lights-out sort of season that Tom Brady had in leading the Patriots to their perfect regular season in 2007.

Indeed, there are several similarities between these Packers and those Patriots, including a heavy concentration on passing, a nice mix of veterans and youngsters, and a well-established coaching staff with a strong ability to adapt during games.

But there are many differences, starting with Rodgers' corps of receivers, which is deeper than what Brady enjoyed. Sure, Brady had stars in Randy Moss and Wes Welker, but beyond that his targets usually were Donte Stallworth, Jabar Gaffney,



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers (12) celebrates after throwing a 65-yard touchdown pass to teammate James Jones in the third quarter of an NFL football game in Detroit on Thursday, Nov. 24, 2011.

tight end Benjamin Watson and running back Kevin Faulk. Moss had a record 23 TD receptions and Welker grabbed 112 passes.

While nobody on these Packers figures to produce such numbers, Rodgers throws to as many as 10 receivers in a game, and double-covering any of them tends to create mismatches elsewhere, particularly with TE Jermichael Finley, unlike Watson a deep threat, and the emerging Jordy Nelson.

New England also had a better offensive line than the Packers can put together, and its defense was stingier than Green Bay's.

Perhaps most notable is how the Patriots blew out teams in the first eight weeks, then were tested severely in the second half of the 2007 schedule, with

four victories by four points or less. Thus far, the Packers have only two lopsided wins.

That actually might help Green Bay, toughen it for the postseason grind. Remember that the Patriots did not win the NFL title that season, losing to the Giants in the Super Bowl—and being held to a season-low 14 points.

To their credit, the Packers aren't totally ignoring the perfection chatter.

"Yeah, they don't mind it," coach Mike McCarthy said. "You guys don't like my same message, but it kind of works for us. I don't feel any pressure by it. It's a great place to be. It's nice to be undefeated and to be part of those conversations. Anybody would like to be part of those conversations."

"But really, not to be cliché, it's about

the next game. Because if you don't get No. 12, that talk's over. We won't shy away from the talk if we get to that, but it's a hypothetical situation."

The reality is the Packers will be favored in their remaining five games, three at home. They visit the Giants on Sunday in what some think will be their toughest test. They also get the Raiders at home, visit the Chiefs, then finish with consecutive divisional games at Lambeau Field against the Bears and Lions.

It is not an easy path, and Green Bay fully will deserve the 16-0 mark if it gets there.

Just as Indianapolis will deserve matching the ignominious 0-16 Detroit compiled in 2008. Yes, the Mannings, uh, Colts have a monstrous excuse for flopping: Peyton Manning's neck sur-

gery and subsequent sidelining, something they clearly were ill-prepared to deal with.

But 0-11? And with some losses against the dregs of the league: Cleveland, Tampa Bay, Kansas City, Jacksonville and, on Sunday, Carolina—perhaps their best opportunity to get off this schneid?

The old saw that others will step up for the team when a star goes down certainly has not applied in Indy. Instead of stepping up, just about everyone from Reggie Wayne to Dallas Clark to Dwight Freeney have fallen down. And they haven't been able to get up as the losses mount.

Indianapolis is near the bottom in scoring, various offensive and defensive statistics, turnover differential and, naturally, wins.

Curtis Painter was not ready to be a starting quarterback, bringing Kerry Collins out of a short retirement backfired, injuries have plagued the roster, and coach Jim Caldwell and his staff have been at, well, a loss on how to fix anything.

Not that the Colts are giving up, even with New England, Baltimore, Tennessee and Houston, a combined 30-14, on the schedule before they finish with at the Jaguars. Tight end Jacob Tamme is searching for silver-and-blue linings, hoping for a carry-over from a decent second half against Carolina.

As if decent will get it done with the imposing schedule that's ahead.

"There toward the end, those last few drives, we didn't think there was any way we'd be stopped. So I think that's a positive thing," Tamme said. "I think the attitude on the field and in the huddle was a positive thing, and something to grab ahold of and take going forward. The way that things have gone so far this year, that's not easy to do, to keep believing in each other, and we do despite the fact that we haven't done what we want to do this year so far."



# Meyer returns home to coach Ohio State



**COLUMBUS, Ohio** (AP)—Urban Meyer is back on familiar turf, fit and ra-

rin' to go as Ohio State's new football coach.

Without question, he'd like to add to the national titles and success he had at Florida—only this time with a better ending: No burnout.

A match that seemed obvious for months was made Monday, when the Buckeyes hired Meyer to take over a glamour program struggling through a year of well-publicized NCAA violations.

Meyer resigned as Gators coach after last season, citing health concerns and a desire to spend more time with his family.

"A year ago in my mind I was convinced I was done coaching," the 47-year-old said.

He's now convinced he can balance a healthy life and a high-pressure job.

"I had a health scare a couple of years ago that made me sit back, reflect," Meyer said of heart and stress problems. "I didn't feel right. But I feel fantastic now."

He did, though, yearn to be back on the sideline at the Horseshoe.

"If not for the coaching position at Ohio State, I would not have coached this year," said Meyer, who grew up in Ashtabula, Ohio, about 200 miles away from campus.

Meyer will become one of the highest-paid coaches in college football, along with Alabama's Nick Saban and Oklahoma's Bob Stoops and Texas' Mack Brown. He was given a six-year contract that pays \$4 million annually, plus another \$2.4 million total in "retention payments." He also can qualify for supplemental bonuses.

Interim coach Luke Fickell, who took over when Jim Tressel was forced out for breaking NCAA rules, will coach the Buckeyes (6-6) in their bowl game. Meyer will keep him on as an assistant but declined to say in what capacity.

Ohio State athletic director Gene Smith said his first conversation with Meyer about the coaching job was by phone on Nov. 20. The two met face-to-face three days later.

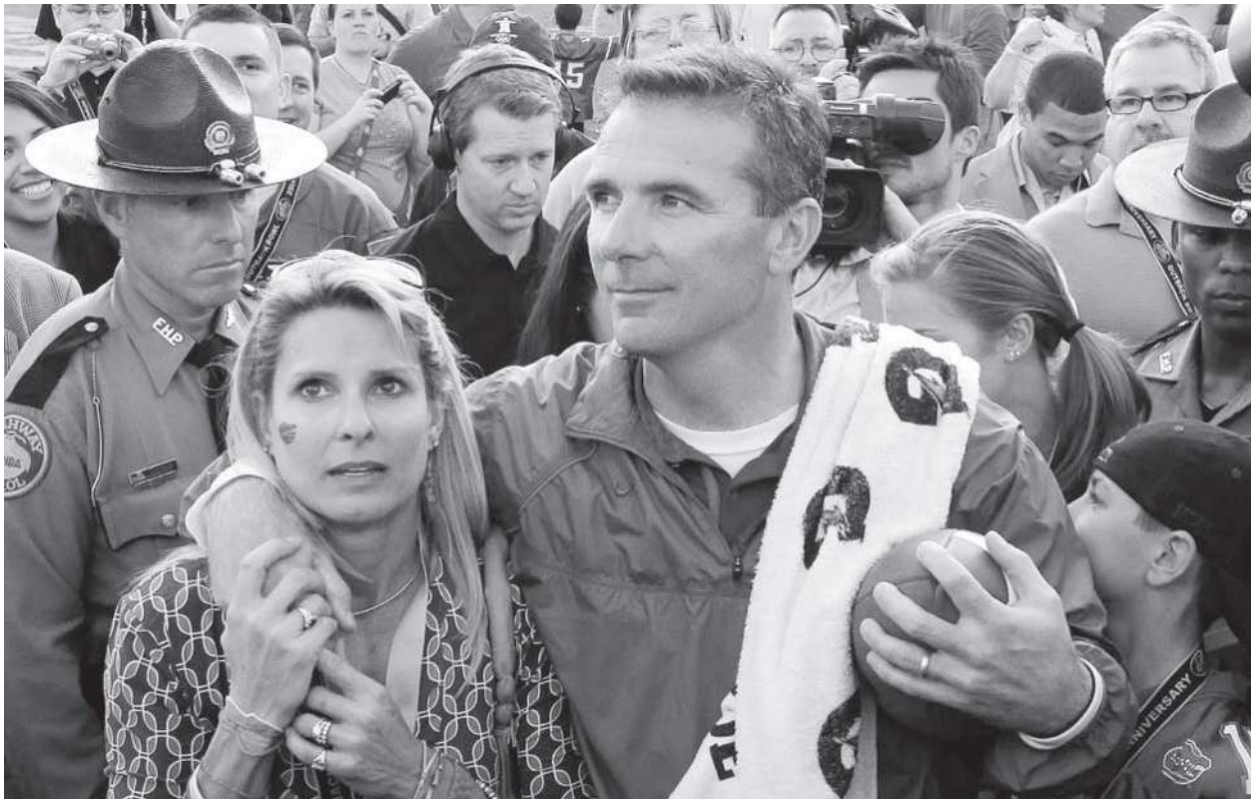
"There's a right time for certain leaders," he said. "This is the right time for Urban Meyer to lead this football team. ... He gets it."

Meyer spent six years at Florida, winning national titles in 2006 and 2008. He spent his year away from coaching working as an analyst for ESPN and watching his two daughters play volleyball for their college teams.

Former Ohio State coach Earle Bruce gave Meyer his first college coaching job in 1986 and remained a close friend and confidant through the years. He said he had no concerns about Meyer's health.

"Well, if he'd had a heart attack and his heart was bad, I'd be worried about that," the 80-year-old Bruce said. "I'm not worried that he was stressed out over the game of football because he was thinking too much and not doing some things (exercising) that would have kept him straight. I think he got everything back under control by sitting out a year. I think he missed football. And he's good at it."

Meyer met with the team on Mon-



In this Jan. 1, 2011 file photo, Florida head coach Urban Meyer puts his arm around his wife Shelley after Florida defeated Penn State 37-24 in the Outback Bowl NCAA college football game, in Tampa, Fla. AP

day before his news conference and said he was impressed with the players' enthusiasm.

Meyer takes over a program that is likely facing NCAA sanctions and was crippled by the forced resignation of Tressel. The Buckeyes completed their only season under Fickell with a 40-34 loss to Michigan on Saturday that snapped a seven-game winning streak against their rivals.

Tressel was forced out for knowing but not telling his superiors that Buckeyes players likely broke NCAA rules by taking cash and free or discounted tattoos from the subject of a federal drug-trafficking investigation.

In 10 seasons as a head coach—two at Bowling Green, two at Utah and six at Florida—Meyer has a 104-23 re-

cord. His teams are 7-1 in bowl games, including the Gators' 41-14 victory over unbeaten and top-ranked Ohio State in the 2007 Bowl Championship Series title game.

Meyer initially denied all the talk about succeeding Tressel, saying he wasn't interested in leaving ESPN, where he was a college football analyst.

"He enjoyed what he was doing, but I think he also had the bug to start coaching again," ESPN broadcast partner and former Ohio State linebacker Chris Spielman said. "This was just an opportunity that he couldn't pass up."

Meyer inherits a young team led by freshman quarterback Braxton Miller, who would seem to be a perfect fit for his spread offense.

"We're putting a lot of pressure on

this cat," Meyer joked. "He's special."

Ohio State's .500 record this season marked the most losses at Ohio State since John Cooper's 1999 team also went 6-6 overall and 3-5 in the Big Ten.

The Buckeyes already lost their string of six Big Ten titles when the school was forced to vacate the 2010 season for the NCAA violations. The school has also self-imposed two years of NCAA probation and offered to return \$339,000 in bowl revenue from 2010 and to forfeit five scholarships over the next three seasons.

Ohio State is awaiting final word from the NCAA's committee on infractions. The committee tagged Ohio State with a "failure to monitor" label—second only to a lack of institutional control on the list of most egre-

gious charges against a university. The school could still be hit with a bowl ban, a loss of more scholarships, or other penalties.

Ohio State President Gordon Gee was at Vanderbilt when Meyer was in the Southeastern Conference with Florida.

"I always viewed him the way many other coaches referred to him as being a goody two-shoes," Gee said in a phone interview. "He was called that because he always tried to do things right, and he was upset if others didn't try to do it right. I have always admired him."

But Meyer's teams have not always been so well behaved.

The Gators had 30 arrests involving 27 players during Meyer's six seasons.

Meyer left Utah for Florida after leading the Utes to a perfect season. He had a choice of either the Florida job or the Notre Dame job and he picked the Gators.

In his second season with the Gators, No. 2-ranked Florida beat unbeaten Ohio State, coached by Tressel, 41-14 to win his first national title.

Two years later, Florida won another national title, beating Oklahoma 24-14 behind Tim Tebow.

The next year Florida contended for a repeat, but after losing the SEC title game to Alabama, Meyer said he was retiring from coaching, citing health problems. He changed his mind and was back the next day, saying he would only take a leave of absence.

In addition to the deal he signed with Ohio State, Meyer's two daughters in college and young son also made him sign something. It promises that he won't overdo it, that he won't work too hard, that he'll take care of himself this time.

"This is a contract that my kids made me sign before I was allowed to sign a real contract," he said, holding up a pink slip of paper. "It's tougher than any other contract I've signed in my life."

## Syracuse coach Boeheim silent day after Fine fired



**SYRACUSE, N.Y.** (AP)—Syracuse men's basketball coach Jim Boeheim ran a closed practice Monday as sex abuse victims' advocates questioned whether he should still coach following the firing of longtime assistant Bernie Fine, who has been accused of molestation by three men.

As criticism swirled about Boeheim's initial support of Fine and his verbal attacks on the accusers, the coach kept a low profile, seeking refuge in his office on the second floor of the Carmelo K. Anthony Basketball Center.

Boeheim, who had been sharply critical of the accusers, has softened his stance 10 days after an impassioned defense of Fine, who spent 35 seasons on the bench next to Boeheim and was fired Sunday.

The Rev. Robert Hoatson, president of Road to Recovery, a group that supports victims of sexual abuse, said the dismissal of Bernie Fine was appropriate but didn't go far enough.

"I think Jim Boeheim should be fired or resign as well," Hoatson said Monday. "These boys were members of the basketball program. Jim Boeheim's responsibility is to oversee that program, and the children were not safe on his watch."

Two former Syracuse ball boys were

the first to accuse Fine, who has called the allegations "patently false." And a third man came forward last week, accusing Fine of molesting him nine years ago.

Bobby Davis, now 39, told ESPN that Fine molested him beginning in 1984 and that the sexual contact continued until he was around 27. A ball boy for six years, Davis told ESPN that the abuse occurred at Fine's home, at Syracuse basketball facilities and on team road trips, including the 1987 Final Four. His stepbrother, Mike Lang, 45, who also was a ball boy, told ESPN that Fine began molesting him while he was in fifth or sixth grade.

Zach Tomaselli, 23, of Lewiston, Maine, said Sunday he told police that Fine molested him in 2002 in a Pittsburgh hotel room. Tomaselli, who faces sexual assault charges in Maine involving a 14-year-old boy, said Fine touched him "multiple" times in that one incident. During a telephone interview with The Associated Press, he said he signed an affidavit accusing Fine following a meeting with Syracuse police last week in Albany.

As supporters of victims of sex abuse called for Boeheim to be fired, university trustees were largely silent.

"I don't have anything to say about this," said trustee H. Douglas Barclay,

who earned his law degree from Syracuse in 1961 and was a New York state senator for 20 years.

Reached in Naples, Fla., trustee Marvin Lender, class of 1963, referred all calls to Chancellor Nancy Cantor.

"It's a policy, and I want to adhere to it," he said.

Calls to several other trustees seeking comment were not returned.

The allegations against Fine surfaced a week after Penn State school trustees fired Joe Paterno in the aftermath of child sex abuse charges against former defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky, who is accused in a grand jury indictment of sexually abusing eight boys over a 15-year period.

Amid that child sex-abuse scandal, Penn State's trustees ousted Paterno and university President Graham Spanier. The trustees said Spanier and Paterno, who is not the target of any criminal investigation, failed to act after a graduate assistant claimed he saw Sandusky sexually abusing a young boy in a campus shower in 2002. And two school administrators were charged with not properly alerting authorities to suspected abuse and with perjury. They maintain their innocence.

The NCAA is monitoring developments.

"NCAA President Mark Emmert

spoke today with Chancellor Nancy Cantor to let her know the NCAA is carefully monitoring the developments at Syracuse University, and Chancellor Cantor pledged her full cooperation in determining the facts," the NCAA said in a statement Monday. "The accusations of child sexual abuse reported in the media involving a former assistant men's basketball coach are deeply troubling. Furthermore, to have similar allegations involving coaches at two of the nation's major universities saddens every member of the Association."

"As facts emerge, we will determine what actions may be necessary regarding NCAA bylaws. As always, criminal justice proceedings, if any, take precedence over any NCAA actions."

When the allegations against Fine first became public Nov. 17, Boeheim adamantly defended his longtime assistant and attacked the accusers, saying he suspected they were trying to get money.

"It is a bunch of a thousand lies that he has told," Boeheim told ESPN, referring to Bobby Davis. "You don't think it is a little funny that his cousin (relative) is coming forward?"

Those comments prompted a swift backlash from victims' advocates, who were outraged by Boeheim's attitude.

Ten days later, his stance had changed considerably.



# Ed Sablan is SGA's final ace of the year



Ed Sablan took the last slot for the Saipan Golfers Association's Ace of Aces Tournament after toping the December tourney held last Nov. 13 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

Sablan actually fired a net score of 74, which was good for fourth for the day and tied with Joe Deleon Guerrero. However, since the Top 3 finishers—SGA president Marianas Fajardo (net 70), John Cruz (net 71), and Tony Deleon Guerrero (net 73)—already won earlier in the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ed Sablan, third from left middle row, won the Saipan Golfers Association December Ace last Nov. 13 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course. He is seen here posing with the other 11 qualifiers for the club's season-ending Ace of Aces Tournament.

## SEVEN

From Page 28

Belzer and Rafael Jones in three sets, 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (7-5). Padilla and Cruz were seeded second in the same field and earned the right to challenge the top-ranked pair after a straight sets victory over Tommy Choi and Amami Sakano, 6-4, 6-1.

In the men's 3.0 doubles finals, James Libut and Ernie Henzon outclassed Isagani Cortez and Don Castillo in three sets, 2-6, 6-4, 7-5. Libut and Henzon notched a finals berth after defeating Primo Po and Michael Park, 6-1, 6-1,

and Noel Biglete and Diony Peralta, 6-1, 6-3, in the upper half of the six-team bracket. In the lower half, Cortez and Castillo triumphed over Edgar Casing and Dylan Ackerman, 6-4, 6-3, and Jaime Hagos and Romulo Pandoro, 6-1, 6-2, to move into the finals.

The men's 4.0 doubles was also decided in three sets with Lacbayo and Richard Asuncion winning over John Kang and Ryan Cho, 3-6, 6-2, 6-4. Lacbayo and Asuncion were unseeded in the field and made it all the way to the title match after beating Kentaro Imapa and Gabriel Colombo, 6-1, 6-2, and father and son Darnel and Carl

dela Cruz, 6-4, 6-1. Kang and Cho pulled off an upset over top seed Cajigan and Reo Arriola in the semis, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6, and earlier thwarted Rodel Reyes and Matthew Lopez, 6-0, 6-3, to join Lacbayo and Asuncion in the finals.

In the women's division, Sadako Arriola and Chieko Nagao, Joy and Theecel Minor, and Lydia Tan and Sally Lee topped their respective fields.

Naga and Arriola ruled the women's 3.0 doubles after outlasting Keiko Ojima and Ayumi Kaga in the finals, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3. A 6-1, 6-1 win over May Ling Colombo and Vicky Izuka put Nagao and Arriola in the semis

where they outlasted the mother-and-daughter pair of Merle and Adele Hudkins, 7-5, 1-6, 10-5.

In the women's 4.0-and-above doubles, Tan and Lee triumphed over Lin Liang and Quing Xiu Su and Joy Minor and Cleofe Santos to take the championship. The women's 4.0 doubles crown went to Joy and her daughter Theecel, after they swept Chicharu Sato and Kinumi Taniguchi, 6-2, 6-3, and Sally Lee and Lydia Tan, 6-3, 6-2.

Winners of the Tan Holdings Classic received trophies during the awards ceremony Sunday night at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

## INTER

From Page 28

finisher Tan Holdings FC (1-0-3).

In their first meeting this season, Tan Holdings seemed headed for an upset when it took a 1-0 lead in the first half. Ruselle Zapanta scored the lone goal in the first 45 minutes of play. Tan Holdings hung on to the lead early in the second half and almost took a 2-0 advantage, but Jershwin Angeles' shot was called on off side.

After a long drought, Inter Godfather's finally got into its senses when Masatoshi Otsuka

scored in the 60th minute for the equalizer. Then in the closing minute of the second half, Gilmark Reusora made the game-winning goal.

In the other playoff pairing between Wild Bill's and KFAS, the former drew goals from three different players to eliminate KFAS.

Detdon Adul broke the ice for Wild Bill's with his goal in the 25th minute. The score remained at 1-0, for Wild Bill's until Heo Si Young found the back of the net for KFAS in the 80th minute to force a deadlock.

Seven minutes later, Daniel Wollack broke the tie and Wild

Bill's secured the victory after Jeeraphong Thoensaket finally scored one minute before the game ended.

Will Bill's was in Pool A and topped the field with a perfect 4-0-0 slate, while KFAS placed fourth in Pool B with its 1-1-2 card.

Meanwhile, two more first-round playoff games will be played this Sunday with the winners joining Wild Bill's and Inter Godfather's in the Final Four. In the first match at 12pm, MP United A will take on Matansa, while Paire will face SKY FC in the second game at 3pm.

MP United finished No. 2

in Pool A with its 3-0-1 record, while Matansa was third in Pool B with its 1-1-2 slate. Paire ended up in third place in Pool A with its 2-0-2 card, while SKY FC was runner-up in Pool B with its similar 2-0-2 mark. MP United B completed Pool B and was eliminated early after finishing the round-robin regular season with a 1-0-3 record. Shirley's FC was booted out in Pool A after being winless in four games.

The semis pairings have yet to be announced, but the two games will be played on Dec. 11, while the championship match is set for Dec. 18.

## BLUE

From Page 28

guns blazing and back-to-back triples from siblings Mico and Rommel Usi moved the team within six, 66-72, with 1:04 left on the clock. Pacific Postal launched an 11-2 rally to return to the game.

Pacific Postal had a chance to move closer when Blue Haus/ QQ missed on its next offensive set, but Rex Yabut's kick-out pass to the left key to Rommel Usi was too strong and went to the sideline, returning possession to their foes.

Pacific Postal then gave up two quick fouls, but failed to send any Blue Haus/ QQ player to the foul line, as the former was not yet in the penalty. In the ensuing play, Blue Haus/ QQ did a great job avoiding contact with Pacific Postal before Bran-

don Talania canned a 15-foot jumper to seal the win.

Badong Camacho paced Blue Haus/ QQ with 17 points, while Edwin Camacho chipped in 14.

In the second game, Manolo Manalo scored nine points and went 3-for-6 from the foul line in the fourth quarter to lift SCS to the four-point victory.

SCS took the win despite falling behind by as much as 12 points early in the first period. SCS had only six players in the opening canto and was limited to six points in the first four minutes of the game, allowing FGC to notch an 18-6 advantage. Ron Gamboa led FGC with 12 points in the first frame for their 25-17 advantage.

FGC remained in control in the second canto, 43-36, before SCS made the move late in the third with big man Glen Aquino reporting for duty. Aquino hit back-to-back triples in the clos-

ing minutes of the third and scored eight points to put SCS on top, 62-60.

SCS stretched the lead to seven, 70-63, after holding FGC to one field goal in the first four and a half minutes of the fourth off Gamboa's triple.

After a slow start in the fourth, FGC managed to have a short 9-2 rally to tie the game, 72-all, 2:14 left on the clock. That was the last time FGC knotted the count, as it missed a couple of triples and free throws, while Manalo fired seven of SCS' last eight points to save the win.

Manalo broke the tie with a fastbreak layup, Ferdie Tobias split his charities, and Manalo made another inside basket for a 77-72 cushion, 55 seconds left on the clock. Manalo added two more free throws to up the lead, 79-72, before FGC answered with four straight points to stay in the game, 79-76, 13 ticks left.

Manalo was fouled anew on two occasions and went 2-for-4 to ensure the win.

### First Game

**Blue Haus/ QQ Rent A Car 74** – B. Camacho 17, E. Camacho 14, Fernandez 10, Sison 8, Abedes 8, Talania 7, Cruz 4, Olivos 2.

**Pacific Postal 66** – R. Usi 24, Johnson 10, Yabut 9, Bicara 8, Acosta 8, M. Usi 6, Tenepere 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 15-21, 38-37, 57-51, 74-66.

### Second Game

**SCS Heavy Equipment 80** – Manalo 26, Guiang 15, Mina 12, Aquino 10, Ritual 9, Tobias 3.

**FGC 76** – Barrios 22, Gamboa 19, Dayrit 11, Llagas 6, Gabaldon 6, Camacho 6, B. Montano 4.

**Scoring by quarters:** 17-25, 36-45, 62-60, 80-76.

year, Sablan took the plum after edging Joe Deleon Guerrero in a scorecard tiebreak.

Despite losing the December ace by the slimmest of margins, Joe Deleon Guerrero still wound up a winner by securing two greenies in holes No. 13 and 17.

Sablan now joins the other 11 monthly winners and early qualifiers for SGA's season-ending tournament—Tony Deleon Guerrero (January), John Cruz (February), Nick Sablan (March), Edward Manibusan (April), Ray San Nicolas (May), Joe Sablan (June), Danny Quitugua (July), Steve Balakrishna (August), Frances Sablan (September), Das Krishnan (October), and Mariano Fajardo (November).

A total of 25 SGA members

took part in the December Ace. The other participants, with their net scores in parenthesis, were Jess Castro (75), Steve Balakrishna (76), Jung Eun Teack (76), Steve Jang (76), Matt Chargualaf (76), and Jim Mitchell (76), Edward Manibusan (77), Manny Blas (77), Vicente Aldan (77), Frances Sablan (77), Joe Demapan (78), Frank Castro (78), Ray San Nicolas (80), Danny Quitugua (81), Martin Sablan (81), Bob Magofna (82), Larry Deleon Guerrero (84), Joe Sablan (88), Norbert Sablan (89), and Das Krishnan (93).

Castro won the longest drive in hole No. 2, while Larry Deleon Guerrero took the prize in hole No. 12. Manibusan, meanwhile, won the greenies in holes No. 3 and 7. (*Saipan Tribune*)

## RUSSIAN

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Cameron O'Neil, and Derek Horton, and local bets Lewie Tenorio and Butch Sublemente.

Komkov, according to Hell of Marianas organizers, is a member of the Russian National Team. The Samara native's most recent win came in the 2011 Russian National Championships for climbers in March. The race was a two-part series with Komkov topping both races, beating members of the Itera-Katusha Under 23, an elite group of Russian bikers.

Rita Fast's latest result was a second-place finish in a summer youth game last year, Hell of Marianas organizers added. She will be racing in the women's division against defending champion and Saipan pride Mieke Carey, Australia's Jodie Willett, Korea's Chan Hee Hwang, and compatriot Natalia Zakharva.

Meanwhile, organizers said additional cash prizes will be given away to top bikers who

will cross the finish line with the official Hell of Marianas race jersey. The first male and female finishers in HOM jersey will get \$100 each aside from the top pot of \$1,500. For the first finishers in the two-person and four-person races, they will get \$50. This weekend's event will also have devil sprint contests worth \$50 each. The "devil" will be out on the road and once riders see the devil, they have to sprint towards him for the \$50 cash prize.

This weekend's Hell of Marianas will start at 6:15am and bikers are advised to be at the starting line at the southern parking lot of Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio on or before 5:15. Motorists are also requested to take extra caution from 6am to 9am when bikers will be riding in packs.

The will start in San Antonio and bikers will head north up to Kagman and pedal down Capital Hill en route to the Radar Station, Suicide Cliff, Grotto, Bird Island, and Banzai Cliff before heading back to the finish line via Beach Road.



## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NFL STANDINGS

#### AMERICAN CONFERENCE East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	8	3	0	.727	331	223
N.Y. Jets	6	5	0	.545	256	241
Buffalo	5	6	0	.455	261	281
Miami	3	8	0	.273	212	206

#### South

Houston	8	3	0	.727	293	179
Tennessee	6	5	0	.545	226	212
Jacksonville	3	8	0	.273	138	200
Indianapolis	0	11	0	.000	150	327

#### North

Baltimore	8	3	0	.727	272	182
Pittsburgh	8	3	0	.727	233	188
Cincinnati	7	4	0	.636	259	215
Cleveland	4	7	0	.364	165	216

#### West

Oakland	7	4	0	.636	260	274
Denver	6	5	0	.545	221	260
Kansas City	4	7	0	.364	153	265
San Diego	4	7	0	.364	249	275

N.Y. Giants	6	5	0	.545	252	277
Philadelphia	4	7	0	.364	257	251
Washington	4	7	0	.364	183	222

#### South

New Orleans	8	3	0	.727	362	252
Atlanta	7	4	0	.636	259	227
Tampa Bay	4	7	0	.364	199	291
Carolina	3	8	0	.273	252	305

#### North

Green Bay	11	0	0	1.000	382	227
Chicago	7	4	0	.636	288	232
Detroit	7	4	0	.636	316	246
Minnesota	2	9	0	.182	214	295

#### West

San Francisco	9	2	0	.818	262	161
Seattle	4	7	0	.364	185	232
Arizona	4	7	0	.364	213	256
St. Louis	2	9	0	.182	140	270

#### Yesterday's Game

New Orleans 49, N.Y. Giants 24

#### BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

#### East

Dallas	7	4	0	.636	270	225
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# SDA Thanksgiving Road & MTB Race

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Manny Serrano (244) sprints to the finish line against Jerome Diyco (231) and Bhoie Hernandez (207) in the SDA Thanksgiving Road & MTB Race held on Nov. 20.



Rolly Verzon (241) leads Rene Albay (202) and Edgar Villahan (239) to the finish line of the 30-kilometer race in San Antonio.



Nap Dizon, right, and Ariel Garcia hold hands as they near the finish line.



Lewie Tenorio smiles as he crosses the finish line of the 60-kilometer race alone.



Angie Mister checks on the people waiting for her at the finish line.



Ken Pierson gives a sigh of relief after completing the 30-kilometer race.



Rommel Bartolo pedals in San Antonio.



First female finisher in the 60-kilometer race Miek Carey greets the crowd in San Antonio.



Jodel Fernandez is a few meters away from the finish line of the 30-kilometer event.



Pacific Trading Co.'s Charles Cepeda joins the mountain bike 30-kilometer race.





## Seven more pairs crowned champions

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**T**he final week of the Tan Holdings Classic was completed with the crowning of champions in the adults doubles over the weekend.



In the men's 40-and-above doubles, Boyet Minor and Roy Pangelinan survived Feel Kalen and Dodong Lacbayo in a three-set finale, 6-4, 4-6, 6-1. Minor and Pangelinan were seeded first in their field and won over George Poquiz and Abe Malae in the semis, 6-3, 6-4. Kalen and Lacbayo topped Chang Wan Jang and Nanding Cajigan in the other semis pairing, 6-0, 6-1.

Bobby Cruz and Lope Padilla claimed the men's open doubles without a sweat in the finals after Pangelinan and Montgomery were forced to forfeit the match. Montgomery could not make it to the finals, as he had to be with his wife, who gave birth last Sunday.

Pangelinan and Montgomery were ranked first in the men's open doubles and lived up to their lofty billing early when they slipped past Jeff

**See SEVEN on Page 26**

Bobby Cruz, seen here making a return from the baseline against Todd Montgomery in Week 1 of the 3rd Tan Holdings Classic at the AMP tennis court, teamed up with Lope Padilla in winning the men's open singles against Montgomery and Roy Pangelinan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



## Blue Haus/QQ Rent, SCS thwart foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Blue Haus/QR Rent A Car and SCS Heavy Equipment outstayed their respective opponents in the home-stretch to pull off close wins in the 2011 DLX Basketball Invitational Friendship League last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Blue Haus/QR played in the curtain raiser and slipped past Pacific Postal, 74-66, while SCS edged FGC in the second match of the night, 80-76.

The win was only the first for Blue Haus/QR, which dropped its debut against MDX, 62-67, and had its second game against SCS postponed. Blue Haus/QR escaped with an eight-point victory after almost wasting a 15-point advantage.

Blue Haus/QR's biggest lead was recorded at the 70-55 tally when it outgunned Pacific Postal in the first four minutes of the fourth canto, 13-4. Blue Haus/QR then tried to melt the clock after posting a double-digit lead, but the strategy backfired, as it could not cash in on its last-minute attempts.

Pacific Postal, meanwhile, had its  
**See BLUE on Page 26**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Blue Haus/QR Rent A Car's Jun Abedes, center, goes for a layup against Pacific Postal's Mico Usi, right, and Quincy Johnson during the third quarter of their game in the DLX caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

## Inter Godfather's, Wild Bill's make semis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Inter Godfather's and Wild Bill's clinched the first two semis tickets in the 2011 NMIFA Men's FA Cup after winning their respective playoff

games at the Oleai Sports Complex Field last Sunday.

Inter Godfather's defeated Tan Holdings FC in the second playoff match, 2-1, while Wild Bill's downed Korean Football Association on Saipan in the first game, 3-1, to advance to the next round.

The victory over Tan Holdings was

the fifth in a row for Inter Godfather's this fall season. It swept the round-robin elimination, winning over SKY FC, Matansa, MP United B, and KFAS in Pool B. With its 4-0-0 win-loss-draw record, Inter Godfather's was seeded first in the single-elimination playoffs and was paired against Pool A No. 4

**See INTER on Page 26**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Inter Godfather's Peter Loken, left, beats Tan Holding's Jerishwin Angeles for possession during the second half of their playoff game in the FA Cup last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

## 2 more Russian pros enter 'Hell'



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Pro riders lead the main pack of last year's Hell of Marianas. This weekend, 10 pros are entered in the 100-kilometer race.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Returnee Konstantin Fast of Russia will be racing with his wife, Rita, this Saturday, while Danila Komkov also made it to the list of around 160 bikers that will cruise around the island during the 5th Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.

Rita Fast and Komkov are the new-

est additions to the roster of pro cyclists who will compete in the grueling 100-kilometer race this weekend. Komkov will vie for the men's division crown against defending champion Joon Yong Seo, Ji Hang Choi, and Jung Hwan Youm of Korea. Konstantin Fast, Matthew Wood and John Anderson of Australia, Guam's Ben Ferguson, Peter Lombard, David Spelger,  
**See RUSSIAN on Page 26**